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Anne Driscoll is a member of the Boston Irish Currach Rowing Club, which will compete in a North American regatta set for Sept. 5 at Carson Beach in South Boston.

Boston's champion currach rowers have fun while winning nationwide

By Kristina Carroll SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Boston Irish Currach Rowing Club, one of seven teams in the North American Currach Association, has brought a centuries-old Irish tradition to the waters of Hough's Neck in Quincy.

While the club has had a shaky history, its founder, Joe McDonagh, says the club is doing better than ever. "I've been involved since I came over here

Regatta set for Sept. 5 along Carson Beach

about 15 years ago, and the club has been up and down over the years, he said in an interview. "It died out there for a while, and we didn't have a good boat, so I ended up building one myself three years ago."

That was seven or so years after Anne Driscoll first heard about the club. "I had read a story in the Boston Globe in like 2003, and had it in mind that I wanted to do this. And then when I called, it was probably 2005 or 2006, when I really had time to devote to it, I found out that the team had disbanded," she said. "Everybody had headed back to Ireland because the Celtic Tiger was go-

ing on."
Driscoll decided to give it another try in 2013, and was pleased to find out that not only had the club started up again, but it was also in desperate need of women rowers. "So it's like a fever, it keeps coming back," she said. "I thought I was all done with it, but some young

(Continued on page 3)



The Boston Irish Currach Rowing Club trains in the the waters of Hough's Neck in Quincy. A form of sculling, the currach is a wider boat that seats only four people. It is widely used in western Ireland.

Opening its **US** market push, Primark eyes success at Boston site

By Peter F. Stevens BIR STAFF

September 10 is the long-awaited big day for Primark and Boston's Downtown Crossing. The Dublin-based fashion retailer is opening the doors to its first US store in the redeveloped Burnham Building, once the home of Filene's and the late, lamented Filene's Basement.

Primark's foray into the American retail market stretches across four floors of the venerable structure. On the first and second floors will be women's clothing and apparel; men's clothing will be on the third floor. On the fourth floor is children's clothing. Shoppers looking for shoes and accessories will find them on each floor.

What American customers will find on all four floors is Primark's array of "in the moment fashion" and

home goods at the reasonable prices that has made the chain a huge success in Europe. Retail industry

insiders view Primark as akin to Swedish-based H&M, Spanish-based Zara, and Los Angeles-based Forever 21.

In a visit to the Boston site last March, Breege O'Donoghue, a Primark board member and director of business development and new markets, told the Boston Globe that "the stores target fashion-conscious millennials but also appeal to a much wider demographic.'

A Primark press release in March stated that the chain planned to open stores "in the USA...located close to areas of high-urban density and that would benefit from high levels of existing customer footfall." With the ongoing redevelopment of Downtown Crossing, 'customer footfall" should be a given.

Primark's board selected Boston as the ideal site from which to spread the word throughout the US. Said O'Donoghue to the Globe: "We recognize that there's not a high level of awareness about Primark,' she said. "We're a value retailer. Our business is about affordable fashion at great quality and great prices.'

Even as the doors to Primark in Downtown Crossing are flinging open this month, the chain is already planning seven more stores in the US by the end of 2016, including ones at the South Shore Plaza in Braintree, and in the Burlington Mall. The Boston store features 84 fitting rooms and a small army of over 500 mannequins. A 1,000-square-foot "trend room" at the front of the store will present mannequins clad in the chain's most popular and trendy fashions.

At 77,000 square feet, Primark is smaller than next-door neighbor Macy's. Still, if the Irish chain's success in Europe is a predictor, the maiden US store should

offer Macy's a literal run for its money.

In a welcome development for the local economy,

(Continued on page 6)

Honorees for 2015 **Boston Irish Honors** announced







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Dot's Fenton enters NE's Basketball Hall

By Lauren Dezenski REPORTER STAFF

One of the most decorated players in UMass Boston basketball history will be inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in August.

Eileen Fenton, the only women's player in the school's history to have her number retired, will be honored in a ceremony on Aug. 8 at the DCU Center in Worcester. The Dorchester native and current resident still holds three school records, including the single-season scoring mark of 490 points in 1989-90. She graduated from UMass Boston in 1991. She is the daughter of Willie and Mamie Fenton, who are originally from Carna, Co. Galway.

Fenton was nominated by her coach, Charlie Titus, and by Suffolk University's Jim Nelson.

"Eileen was a pioneer in our sports program in our early years. She played a key role in making the women's sports programs matter on this campus. An outstanding student and fully dedicated athlete, Eileen was extremely focused and hard working. She gave real meaning to the term 'student-athlete,' and as a result she experi-

enced tremendous success in the classroom and on the basketball court," Titus said. "I always enjoyed watching Eileen play. She displayed skill and passion, which allowed her to lift everyone around her. This induction is such a well-deserved honor."

September 2015

Fenton said the nomination came as a complete surprise and called it an honor. "UMass is a big piece of my success and I'm so thankful," she said. "When I was playing the game, I never thought of it in terms of records, it was just pure love of the game. I'm a city kid. I was fortunate enough to be exposed to great athletes, parks, and accessible sports."

Fenton said there was a spot for her to play basketball every night of the week in the neighborhood, whether it was the Little House, the Boys and Girls Club, or Ryan Playground.

Even today, the Savin Hill resident plays basketball every Tuesday night with a women's league at Hemenway Park. "It's a competitive league and a great group of women. I'm probably on the older end of the age range, but I can still run," she said with a laugh.

"I can't \check{h} elp but think



Eileen Fenton on the court for UMass Boston during UMass Boston photo her Hall of Fame career.

I would have been a different person" without playing basketball, Fenton said. "I do appreciate the value that sports have added to my life in terms of leadership, team building, and playing as a team member. It transferred to my professional life and personal life as an adult."

was inducted into the UMass Boston Hall of Fame in 2003. DShe said she does not plan to bring her basketball sneakers to the Aug. 8 ceremony, "unless they let me play in stilettos. I'd probably rather play basketball

an attorney for MassDOT,

anyway.

Irish nanny cleared in baby death case Defense raps prosecution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lawyer for an Irish nanny who was accused of killing a one-year-old girl in her care and served more than two years in prison only to have a murder charge against her dropped on Mon., Aug. 31, called the prosecution a "complete disgrace" and a "rush to judgment."

Melinda Thompson said

37-year-old Aisling Brady McCarthy "can't stop cryingout of joy" but still faces uncertainty because federalimmigration authorities want to detain her.

"It was a tragedy that a child died, but, quite frankly, the way this prosecution was handled was a complete disgrace,' Thompson said hours after Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan dropped a first-degree murder charge against McCarthy, who remains at an undisclosed location.

Thompson said McCarthy hopes to rebuild her life and her credibility and hasn't ruled out legal action against prosecutors.

"This was an absolute nightmare," Thompson said of her client's time in prison. "It changes a person. She can't get those years back."

McCarthy was accused of killing Rehma Sabir in Cambridge in January 2013. She had been the girl's nanny for about six months.

McCarthy, an Irish national now married to a Boston-area man, traveled to the United States about 13 years ago under a visa waiver program that entitled her to stay



Aisling McCarthy In prison 28 months awaiting trial

She had been in prison from the time of her 2013 arrest until May, when she was released on bail and ordered to wear a GPS monitor while awaiting an October trial.

Monday's announcement by prosecutors came after a state medical examiner reversed an earlier decision declaring the death a homicide caused by shaken baby syndrome.

McCarthy had insisted she was innocent, and her lawyers vigorously challenged the medical examiner's findings that Rehma died of complications of blunt-force head injuries.

The office issued an amended ruling changing the manner of death to "undetermined" after reviewing additional materials, including expert witness reports, transcripts of police interviews and grand jury testimony, additional medical records and lab testing.

The report notes Rehma had a history of bruising and suggests she may have been prone to easy bleeding with relatively minor trauma because of an undiagnosed disorder.

Irish Heritage Festival set for Oct. 11 at Florian Hall

The fifth annual Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival will take place on Sunday, October 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m at Florian Hall (55 Hallet Street) and the John McKeon Post AmVets 146 (4 Hilltop St.). Organizers estimate that almost 9,000 people came out to the event in 2014.

The festival began simply enough.

'It was just an idea we had over a beer," said Cedar Grove Civic Association President Sean Weir, one of the organizers. The festival was held for the first two years in Adams Corner to help the local businesses in that area. In order to get

more space for the event, the festival has since been moved to Florian Hall. "It was sad to move it, but it

Fenton, who works as

had to be done," said Weir. This year's festival lineup has still yet to be finalized, but organizers say that it will be similar to previous years. Press Gang, an innovative Irish

music group from Maine, performed last year. The event has always included performances of Irish music and step dancing. Food vendors serving Irish food will also be included. The suggested donation is \$5 per person, or \$20 per

– Maddie Kilgannon

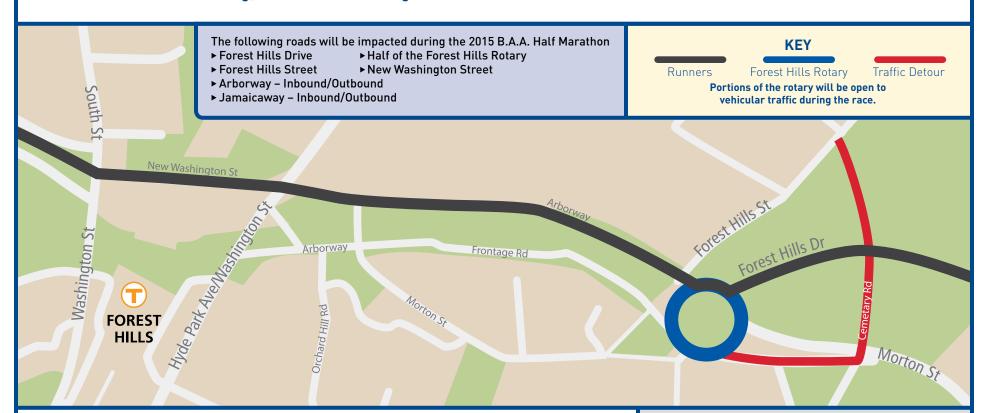
PUBLIC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10 AT BOSTON ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, JAMAICA PLAIN, 6:30 P.M.

15TH ANNUAL B.A.A. HALF MARATHON Sunday, October 11, 2015 • 8:00 a.m.

Starting and Finishing at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Boston www.baa.org; email: info@baa.org

Participants will run along New Washington Street and Forest Hills Drive. Street closings along the race course and on adjacent and abutting streets are in effect during the AM hours from 7:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email info@baa.org





WASHINGTON STREET DETOURS:

NORTHBOUND

South on Frontage Road, through Forest Hills Rotary, left on Cemetary Road, right on Forest Hills Street, left on Rossmore Road, right on Washington Street.

SOUTHBOUND

Left on Brookley Road, right on Cemetary Road, through Forest Hills Rotary, continue on New Washington Street.

Variable message boards will indicate recommended detours to vehicles in the area. Detour signs will be posted. Police will be posted to assist with traffic.



Michael Sheehan



William Evans Police Commissioner, Boston



Margaret Stapleton

Evans brothers, Globe CEO, Eire Society stalwart named **2015 Boston Irish Honorees**

The 6th annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon will take place on Fri., Oct. 23, at 11:45 a.m. at the Seaport Hotel/Boston World Trade Center. The celebratory gathering will also mark the Silver Anniversary of the Boston Irish Reporter.

The 2015 honorees are: Boston Police Commissioner William Evans and his brothers, Paul, John, Thomas and James; Mike Sheehan, chief executive officer, The Boston Globe;

Margaret Stapleton, retired vice president, John Hancock Insurance and Financial Services, past president Eire Society, and longtime Pine Street Inn volunteer.

Since October 2010, the Boston Irish Reporter has sponsored this annual event," said publisher Ed Forry. "It's an inspiring luncheon to recognize and celebrate exemplary Irish individuals and their families who share our heritage in Boston and Ireland. "At this event, we tell the life stories of exemplary Boston Irish with immigrant roots in

Ireland, who established productive and meaningful lives in Boston, and worked to make better lives for succeeding generations of emigrants to our city."

The 35-member luncheon committee will be chaired by Jim Brett, president of the New England Council. Serving as honorary chair are UŠ Senator Ed Markey and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Program mod-erator will be Boston Red Sox "poet laureate" Dick Flavin.

Other committee members are Breandán O Caollaí, Ireland Consul General, Aidan Browne, William M. Bulger, John Burke, James Carmody, John T. Carroll, Della O'Flaherty Costel-lo, Steve Costello, Jay Curley, Brendan Feeney, John Philip Foley, Bill Forry, state Sen. Linda Forry, state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, Mau-reen Forry-Sorrell, Anne Geraghty, David Gre-aney, John B. Hynes III, Edris Kelley, William F. Kennedy, Rev. Thomas B. Kennedy, Mimiand Paul LaCamera, Joe Leary, Bill McNally, Roseanne and Peter Meade, Sean Moynihan, Gil Sullivan, Bobby White, and W. Paul White.

Past Honorees: (2014) Katherine Craven, Mayor Marty Walsh, and the Burke family of South Boston; (2013) State Senate President Therese Murray, John P. Driscoll Jr. (posthumously,) and Gerry and Bob Mulligan & family; (2012) Congressman Richard Neal, Brendan and Greg Feeney, and the Mary and Bob Muse family; (2011) Former Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole, State Sen. Tom Kennedy (RIP,) the Joseph Corcoran family, the James Hunt family and the Thomas Mulvoy family; (2010) Congressman Ed Markey, John Donohue, the Brett family, the Tom & Peg Geraghty family, and the Mayor John B. Hynes family.

For more information, please contact Ed Forry, Publisher, Boston Irish Reporter, at 617-436-1222; email bostonirishhonors@bostonirish.com

Stonehill names professorship in honor of Richard Finnegan, longtime teacher, Dot native

Stonehill College has instituted the Distinguished Richard B. Finnegan Professorship in Political Science and International Relations in honor of the Dorchester native who earned his BA from Stonehill in 1964 and returned to the campus in Easton in 1968 as a member of the Political Science Department.

In announcing the professorship, which will allow a faculty member to conduct advanced research on major political themes, Stonehill called it "a tribute to all that Professor Finnegan accomplished as a teacher, scholar, author, administrator, ambassador, and mentor for scores of students over almost five decades at the college."

During his long tenure as a member of the faculty at the Catholic liberal arts institution, he founded the International Studies program and the Irish Studies program and served as department chair, director of the Honors Program, and dean of the faculty.



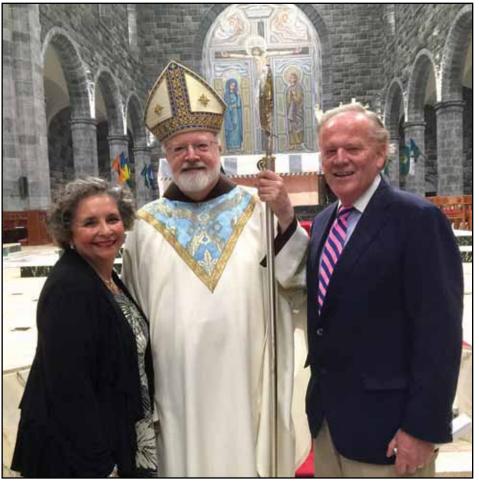
Richard B. Finnegan

"Stonehill has been a portal for me to worlds that I could never have anticipated that I would inhabit," said Finnegan at a dinner held in his honor earlier this summer. "I am grateful and truly moved that this occasion has also afforded me a private opportunity to reflect on the work itself: the time in front of the classrooms full of students, or alone at my research and writing. The miles logged and hours clocked. The day-by-day carrying of these years

ing as a freshman from my parents' house in Dorchester to class at Stonehill, and have taken me so many more places since. The gratification I found in studying, in teaching, and in the simplicity of working my hardest at them."
The author or co-author

of six books, Finnegan was awarded the Moreau Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 1998. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University, where he taught a course on Irish Politics, and University College Dublin. During his career, he received prestigious grants from the Fulbright Program, National Science Foundation, Department of Education. National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Whiting Foundation.

Anna Ohanyan, a political scientist colleague at Stonehill, is the first faculty member to hold the new professorship.



Jim Brett, President and CEO of The New England Council, and his wife, Pattie, joined His Eminence Sean P. Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, on the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Galway Cathedral, The Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and Saint Nicholas, Galway, Ireland. The ceremony was held on Aug. 14.

Milton real-estate broker is charged with fraud by US

A Milton real estate agent with an office in Dorchester was arrested last week on federal wirefraud charges, according to the US Attorney's office. Daniel J. Flynn, III, 52, has been under investigation for a scheme in which he allegedly tricked investors into lending him money to buy property he already owned. Investigators were seen confiscating items from his office at 161 Granite Ave. in Dorchester last Friday

According to the complaint released by US Attorney Carmen Ortiz's



Daniel J. Flynn, III office, Flynn defrauded

investors of millions in a real estate investment scheme that began in at least 2007. Flynn used investor's money to pay his personal debts and to repay prior investors, according to the complaint. He could face as many as 20 years in prison if convicted.

A Boston Globe profile of Flynn, published last May, described Flynn as a "strait-laced real estate broker and auctioneer," who was known as a "go-to guy" to assist in Greater Boston's charity gala circuit.

Currach rowers have fun while winning nationwide

(Continued from page 1) kids came over and they were very interested in it, so that's how I ended up building the boat."

Currach rowing is a form of sculling, but the boats are very different from the many crew boats that can be seen moving along the Charles River. The currach type is much wider, and seats only four people. The oars also lack paddles, and instead are made up of long thin poles.

Because the oars are so thin, Driscoll says teamwork is integral to making the boat move. "That's where you get your power from, that's

how you keep your boat straight," she said. "So it's different from me just going out in my rowboat."

The team accepts rowers of all ages and levels of experience, with the youngest rower being 17 years old. "But what I like about this is it's very egalitarian," said Driscoll. "There are races that have men and women both, and then there are men's races and women's races. And it's not that important how old you are. It's really age blind. So I can start a sport at my age and be on a national championship

And the notion of a

national championship is not something new to the Boston team, which has maintained the national title for several years while competing in cities like Pittsburgh, New London, and Philadelphia. Now in first place, the club expects to remain the champion this year.

Joe Keegan, who has been with the club for a vear, has noticed a difference between Boston and the other competing teams. "We have some people that are outstandingrowers, and it makes it so they can teach someone like me, which is a huge advantage to being on

this team compared to any other teams," he said. "Even the best people on those other teams wouldn't be the best on this team, because these guys are really good. And these guys can really train you. If they can teach me, they're pretty

Competition in the Currach Association involves holding regattas in the hometowns of each competing team. Points are awarded after every event, and at the end of the season the team with the most points is the champion.

Boston's regatta is next

up, set for Sept. 5, at Carson Beach during the Labor Day weekend. It will be open to the public, and the club is encouraging people to come down and watch teams from all over the country compete.

"It's an annual event that we have, and we always have a really great turnout," said Driscoll.
"It's a lot of fun; lots of friends, and just people who are curious about currach racing, show up. She thinks clubs like these have a positive impact on Irish-American culture.

"This is a sport that's really popular in western

Ireland and it's like our $baseball\ games-people$ come out and it's a big community event," she said. "People get really into it, and I think this is also a kind of boat that goes back thousands of vears, and it's a really important tradition. I think it's great that there are people here that are dedicated to keeping it alive."

There is no fee to join the club, which is welcoming new members. Practice is Hough's Neck on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on Sunday afternoons.

Quinnipiac's Lahey: 'Famine' account is a 'mis-told' story

By Ed Forry

 $Quinnipiac\,University\,president\,Dr.\,John\,Lahey\,was$ educated as a philosopher, and landed in professional

academia in the 1970s as a vice president at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with special skills in development and fund raising.

In 1987, he answered the call from Quinnipiac and relocated to Connecticut at age 40 to become one of the youngest college presidents in the country.

With a heritage from Clare, Cork, and Kerry, he was raised in the Bronx, and marched as a schoolboy down Fifth Avenue in the St Patrick's Day parade.

In 1996, he was named chief marshal of that parade. In that role, he says, he was asked to speak before a wide array of Irish groups. It was the eve of the 150th anniversary of "Black 47," the potato crop failure that led to the loss of millions of Irish lives, and he resolved to educate himself about "An Gorta Mór." Reading the scholarly work of noted Irish historian Christine Kinealy, he developed a speech about that chapter in Ireland's history. The experience, he says, led to a life-long interest in those tragic events.

Today, he proudly tells about the "Ireland's Great

Hunger Museum" he has established at Quinnipiac, and he talked with the BIR while promoting a special exhibition from the Quinnipiac collection that opens

Lahey credits Quinnipiac alumnus and board member Murray Lender, a principal of Lenders Bagels, for his guiding hand in establishing the Institute. "He's a Polish Jew and had just sold the company for a couple of hundred million to Kraft Foods," Lahey told me. "He was a great supporter of the Holocaust memorial, and he said to me, 'Let's create a room that focuses on the Great Hunger – I want a special room in the library. He had plenty of money, and he wanted to settle down and do something good.



Dr. John Lahey

"I told him I have big plans for the university, but I'm not going to get things done unless get you on the board of directors. I need you for your leadership and financial support. By the time this Great Hunger thing came around he was already vice chairman of the board.'

The school's collection – now more than 100 pieces of art – soon outgrew the on-campus library, so with Lender's full support, the school bought and completely renovated a property on the edge of the Hamden campus, near the border with New Haven.

"Yale is right down the street from us," he said, "less than ten miles away. Whitney Avenue goes north and south, from Hamden right down to the town, right to Yale. At Yale they have the Mellon Museum of British art, a pretty good collection that Mellon gave them. And up the street on the same Whitney Avenue we have Ireland's Great Hunger Museum.

I think it symbolizes the two institutions. They (Yale) have been around a long time, the blue bloods. And we're the scrappy Irish who had to fight all the way. It's a great thing!'

Key to Lahey's plans was recruiting Kinealy from Drew University in New Jersey: "For three years I recruited her," he said. "I had my eyes on her, I had to get her. I told her I'll get you tenured professor, and I would create a Great Hunger Institute. We'll give you research support, with conferences, publications and so on. You'll be the academic portion.

The pitch worked, and Kinealy accepted the professorship in 2013. "She's the foremost authority on both sides of the Atlantic," he said. "I believe there will be more research and educational activity in connection with Ireland's Great Hunger at Quinnipiac than anywhere else in the world. We just started an Irish Studies program in conjunction with Maynooth. That program will develop into a full major probably in the next couple of years.

The Great Hunger is a story that not only has not been told, but also in some ways it has been mis-told,' Lahey said. "That's why we use the word 'Hunger.' In the eyes of many people 'Famine' means there wasn't any food – when in fact there was.'

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

New confidence leads to lots of smiles in Dublin

By Joe Leary SPECIAL TO THE BIR

After visiting Ireland for a week this past June I feel I can confidently say that Dublin and most of its citizens are enjoying one big celebration of life. Spend a Saturday afternoon walking from O'Connell Street to Grafton Street and all the way up to a bench on St. Stephen's Green, and if at the end you don't experience the joy and superheated heartbeat of one of the world's happiest cities, I'd be very surprised.
Thick crowds bustle their way on busy streets, with

old and young alike walking briskly to wherever they need to go while others saunter along and take pleasure in each other and in the electric atmosphere that seems to be everywhere. To this unpracticed observer, most of the walkers were natives, with just a few tourists

The stores were all open, and the sales help inside were unusually happy and helpful. The crowds were so thick that in one 15-foot wide store – Boots Pharmacy on Grafton Street - there were eight cash registers, all staffed and busy. Ireland still has the youngest population in Europe and its seemed that many of

them were in Boots the day I passed by.

Full shopping bags were the order of the day. Brown and Thomas, House of Ireland, JD, Carrolls, Green Notes, Grahams, and Simply Ireland were just a few of the signatures to be seen.

And music was everywhere, with Dublin's favorite buskers playing different instruments loudly in trying to gain the most contributions to the hats lying on the pavement in front of them. I'm told that up to 100 euros an hour go into those hats on a good day. One busker playing the flute told me that she makes a lot more per hour than if she worked in a shop somewhere. There were at least five full flower stands, bringing

color and vibrancy to their street corners. It is rare for tourists to purchase flowers to bring back to their hotel rooms. The helpful attendants tell me that it's "the locals" that keep them in business for the many years they have been there in these same locations.

As you rest on your bench on St. Stephen's Green, notice the crowds that walk through the colorful gardens. Fathers and mothers, some with baby carriages, some holding their children tightly while taking their families out for a stroll. Teenagers, with their warpaint bright red, purple or yellow hair, laughing and joking as they parade by.

In case you think this is Dubliners' only chance to experience their city, wait till 4:30 – 5 p.m. when the bars and restaurants open for business. The celebration is on! On a sunny evening in June the city turns into a giant street party. And as we know, daylight in Ireland, especially in late June, lasts well into the night. Much later than in



Perhaps not every day of the week but on the Thursday evening that I was in the city, I went for a walk and saw the bars the streets and the sidewalks packed and alive with laughing happy people of all ages sitting and talking and drinking their favorite beverage. It was so crowded that you could not tell where one bar ended and another began.

Take Williams street just west of Grafton Street, for example. Nearly every building had a restaurant, all of them brimming full with customers. Tables and chairs had been moved onto the sidewalk (some into the streets) and not a seat was to be had. Many folks simply were standing next to their friend's table or chair with a drink in their hands. There was hardly any room for the cars and bicycles that tried to get by. But no one complained. There must have been close to 20 bars that I walked by during my brief tour, all packed with relaxed crowds. To see that many people having such a good time was an uplifting experience.

According to the Irish Central Statistics Office, almost 700,000 North Americans visited Ireland during the first six months this year, a 15 percent increase over last year. Many of them will visit Dublin to experience the charm and good will and ambience of this wonderful city.

The Dublin City Council is making it far easier for visitors and Dubliners to move around the city with the building of an extended public transportation system called the Luas Cross City. Several worldwide credit rating agencies have applauded the government's management of its economy by repeatedly increasing their confidence in Irish political leadership.

When you put all this together and then recognize

that Dublin has just received an award from Conde Nast Traveler magazine as the second friendliest city in the world, you come to appreciate why Ireland and its major city should be on everyone's list to visit.

Off the Bench

Our reunions are especially precious

By James W. Dolan SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER



James W. Dolan

The pain started a little after lunch. Was it what she ate or something more serious, like the blockage that put her in the hospital for a week last March? With ovarian cancer, one never knows. When the pain persisted, we reluctantly decided to leave the family reunion in New Hampshire and head for Beth Israel.

She was again in remission after a second round of chemotherapy following an earlier 13-month period of remission.

No shrinking violet, she studies all her medical reports, reads everything she gets her hands on about the disease, and carefully regulates her diet. "I know my own body," she likes to say.

We left Thursday about 8 p.m., and a few miles be-Notch, I heard her praying and then noticed she had fallen asleep. A good sign. On we drove and about two hours later as we approached Boston, she woke up with no pain. If I go to the hospital, they'll just admit me; so let's go home and see how I do, she said. That night she slept for seven hours and awoke with no symptoms.

Having decided it was likely only a severe attack of indigestion, we decided to head back to Bretton Woods. Short of a medical crisis, there was no way she was going to miss the reunion that had been planned for months. All 21 of us: our 5 children, their spouses and 9 grandchildren were there. Three hours later we were back, and all were relieved to see her return.

Aside from that scare, the weekend was a grand success. There is nothing we enjoy more than a family gathering highlighted with great food and drink, lively talk, laughing, music, singing, dancing, and the simple joy of all being together. There was swimming, hiking, fishing, bocce, badminton, and shooting from the deck at cans in the backyard with a pellet gun and BB gun.

A full moon rose above the trees in the backyard and cast a soft glow over the ski trails etched by the moonlight against the mountains. Without ambient city lights, a cascade of bright stars added their splendor to the magic of a beautiful night. There was a spiritual quality to the scene that brings a tear to the eye and makes a heart soar. It doesn't get any better than this, I thought, as I turned to enter the house.

My wife's cancer makes these reunions all the more

precious. Strong and realistic, she confronts problems head on. This disease is going to kill me; I just don't know when, she told me. In the meantime, I'm not finished raising my children or grandchildren. We have a Cape Cod reunion planned for next summer and another in New Hampshire in 2017. These goals give her something to strive for. We pray she will make it, but if not, she'll be there in spirit.

I admire how she has coped with cancer and the example she sets for the rest of us. She continues to live a full and active life despite the inevitable anxiety and discomfort. We all face death, so one might as well make the most of it. The gift of a graceful death can be the last thing we leave to those we love. It provides an opportunity to show love, courage, faith, and acceptance. LAST FAREWELL

Now is our time to part; my life will soon be over. I leave you my love, our family and the joyful times

I take with me the sadness and any pain I may have

Forgive my weaknesses and cherish my strengths. In my absence, care for those we love:

For they are what remains of me.

I'll be waiting down the road.

 $James\,W.\,Dolan\,is\,a\,retired\,Dorchester\,District\,Court$ judge who now practices law.



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Taking stock: Time for renewal in Adams Village?

By BILL FORRY **E**DITOR

Adams Village, a key gateway to Dorchester and a bustling crossroads of daily life, is poised for incremental but substantial improvements over the coming months and years as a new property owner is vowing to pump youthful energy and investment into the aging business district.

Civic and business leaders hope the fresh ownership will trigger a positive shift in the village scene, a monstrous collage of neon signs, clashing architecture, and just an overall shabbiness that has settled in there over the last decade.

"We'd like to see the corner come back to where it used to be," said Sean Weir, president of the Cedar Grove Civic Association. "Most of the buildings really need some tender, loving care. Right now, there are all these neon signs; nothing matches down there. We'd like to see uniform signage and all around cleanliness. It looks so congested and dirty.'

The forlorn nature of the business district stands in sharp contrast to much of the surrounding neighborhood, a heavily residential community that continues to be one of the more desirable and expensive real estate in Dorchester. The prob-lem, in part, has been that some of the most prominent and expansive properties in the village have been controlled by owners unable or unwilling to pump new dollars into needed repairs and cosmetic improvements.

Then last month, in what looks to be a sign of things to come, one of the more-distressed buildings in the village changed hands.

A real estate trust controlled by the father-andson team of Peter and John Lydon purchased 775-789A Adams St., a building that is actually a collection of storefront condominiums that include tenants such as Adams Fish, Hair Image, Casali's Market and Handy-Person caterers. The sale price, which also included a residential condo above the commercial space, exceeded \$1.5

million. The Lydons purchased the commercial properties from Arthur Murphy, a Dorchester native who had owned and managed the storefronts since 1986. He remains the owner of the village's most prominent and, to many, most problematic property -526 Gallivan Blvd., a twostory warren of offices, nail salons, restaurants, and dingy empty spaces that looms over the intersection of the boulevard and Adams Street. The building, crowned with two large billboards that have themselves become targets of neighborhood activists eager to beautify the district, is valued at more than \$2 million, according to city tax records.

Last year, Murphy told the Reporter that he was ready to sell his village properties, acknowledging that health problems



A block of stores along Adams Street, shown to the right of the flags, have recently been acquired by new owners— John and Peter Lydon, who plan to make improvements to the storefronts.

Bill Forry photo

had made his own management of the sites dif-

John Lydon, a 29-yearold law student who was raised in Savin Hill, read the Reporter article and reached out to Murphy, whom he knew through a Boston College classmate. Lydon and his father Peter, a native of Ireland who started his own Braintree-based plumbing business in the 1980s, also own properties in South Boston.

'We aren't developers," said the younger Lydon, who is buying his own home in Savin Hill next week. "We tend to buy and hold properties and improve them. That is what we plan to do in Adams Village."

Murphy and Lydon both confirm that they are in ongoing talks about the sale of the Gallivan property, but say that any transaction is not likely to occur until next year. In the meantime, Lydon is acting as a building manager, cleaning out the cluttered second floor office suites in the building and fixing cracked windows. He has set up his own private desk in a corner of the 19,000-squarefoot building in what was at one time the office of an auto school. The windows face out onto the Adams Street block that he and his father purchased last month, and Lydon has taken to watching the foot traffic in and out of the businesses.

This village gets really quiet at night, because most of these places are closed," he noted. "It's eally not inviting for folks who might want to walk through the village. I'd like to change that.'

Murphy said that the Lydon family's roots in Dorchester and their commitment to making Adams Village a longterm focus of their new investment is one reason he decided to sell to them.

"There were a lot of people who were interested, including some who offered more money,' Murphy told the Reporter. "But this is a family that came to America and worked hard and I like their family. They are a BC family and I feel that they will have the right values for Adams Village. I passed up on some developers who were willing to pay more money, but they wore suits, not blue jeans and sneakers. This is the neighborhood that I grew up in and felt very comfortable with - and I believe they do, too."

Another fan of the Lydons is Peggy Folan, who started an online organizing effort two years ago aimed at beautifying the business district. The group, Revitalizing Adams Village Economy (RAVE), has coordinated clean-ups and raised funds for plantings. Folan has also lobbied chain stores-including Foodie's and Wahlburgers - to consider opening up shop in the village.

"It's the gateway to Dorchester," said Folan. "You can go from Adams Street all the way to South Boston and that one building is the biggest eyesore," she said, referring to Murphy's property, which she and many others refer to as the Čhina Sky building, a nod to its longest-standing tenant, a Chinese eatery that sports a vintage sign that no longer glows at night. "There's nothing that looks nice about it. For such a small village," she said, "we've lost that village feel."

Lydon has met with Folan and other civic leaders to gather their ideas about how to improve the storefronts block that he and his father now own. He and Folan agree that it would make sense to have the storefronts mimic the style and decor of the village's marquee establishment, the adjacent Eire Pub. The Eire, owned and maintained by secondgeneration publican John Stenson, is the village's most renowned business. erald facade that reminds Folan and others of a tidy village in Ireland.

"It's going to be great to have someone like John Lydon, who would like to fix it up and make it look like a little Irish village," says Folan. As to the stone and brick China Sky building across the street, she is less optimistic about the prospects of a facelift. "Ultimately it would be nice if it could be knocked down and replaced," she said. "It's such an eyesore."

Those longing for a quick transformation of the village's stragglers are well advised to keep their enthusiasm to a minimum. Lydon himself cautions that his family's own financial wherewithal is part of the mix. They will make fixes, but have no imminent plans to raze Murphy's corner building and replace it with a sparkling new edifice. "It won't be a quick change," Lydon told the Reporter. "It will be subtle here and there, but changing without a doubt."

Lydon agrees with Folan and others that the two hulking billboards on top of No. 526 need to go, and he vows that they will on his watch. But it will take years, he estimates. 'We're working to find out now who owns the rights to them," he said. "But I

agree: They need to go."
First things first, however. The Lydons and Murphy have not yet finalized terms or a price for the building. "I grew up around here in the early '90s and I have a lot of respect for [Murphy] and others for just hanging on. What I'd like to do is find a way for all of these buildings to complement one another in the best way, in a unified way. There's so much to do here," said Lydon.

In fairness, much has been done already to set the pendulum of progress in motion at the corner.

Greenhills Irish Bakery, housed in a former shoe store, is a standout. The crisp and clean business has become a mecca for Irish and Irish-Americans craving soda bread, coffee, and baked goods. Last year, Boston Sports Club moved into another key village building – 540 Gallivan, a onetime supermarket and more recently a drug store that now houses Supreme Liquors and a few small retailers. A year-long renovation of the building was accompameu by a maj outside as well. Supreme Realty Trust, which owns the building that houses the sports club chain, completely rehabilitated the adjacent parking lot, a space that had become badly run-down in recent

"It's been a big success," said the civic association's Sean Weir of the parking lot's clean new look and orderly layout.

And last spring, Cedar Grove Civic Association members approved a proposal by two partners to open a new bar and restaurant-Sam Maverick's-in the long-shuttered Granite Avenue space that was once home to Hollywood Video. The new eatery is expected to open later this year. The two men, who plan to lease the old video store, will go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals on Sept. 1 to seek a variance to allow live entertainment and outdoor seating, a first for the village.

Another key element to improving the look and feel of the village will be the fate of its landmark eatery, Gerard's Adams Corner, a throwback restaurant that shares space with a variety store. Longtime owner Gerard Adomunes owns the first floor restaurant and store and controls the rental spaces on the two floors above (including space where the *Reporter* was head-quartered in the 1980s).

The oldest commercial building in the village, the property is in need of repair. It is currently valued at \$754,500, according to city records, a figure attained by a steady climb after the market bottomed out in 2010. The $building\,would\,likely\,fetch$ far more than that in the current market.

Last week, Ado-munes told the Reporter that rumors that he had sold or had agreed to sell the property were false. One developer, he said, made him an offer, but, according to Adomunes: "He didn't want to buy it;

he wanted to steal it. Still, he acknowledges that the time for him to sell the building is coming soon. "I am 65 now and I have been here at this corner for 45 years, and I have been good to this community," he said. "I have had some inquiries and I think it's time for me to think about it. I want to be able to walk out of here in good health."

his father would definitely be interested in buying Gerard's building in a few years, but he doubts it will be on the market long enough for them to be in contention.

In the meantime, Weir and other stakeholders continue to hold out hope that the city of Boston will help bring some order and direction to the village that has proven elusive through strictly private efforts. Adams Village is a strong candidate for a Main Streets district, Weir argues. Such a designation would bring city resources and coordination in the form of a full-time director who would help landowners and tenants make storefront improvements and promote the village as a destination.

"I'd like to see more enforcement here to tell you

added that complaints about signage have not generated any permanent improvements. "I'd love to see a Main Streets designation, but no one could agree. The property owners just couldn't get on the same page."

There are exceptions, say Weir and Folan, who point out that the Blasi family has made its corner of Adams Street and Minot Street – a former hardware store turned bar and restaurant - into an inviting and popular destination. The Eire Pub, they note, is vigilant about sweeping its sidewalk daily and keeping its prominent facade wellpainted and tidy.

"I'd love to see more of the owners involved in cleaning their storefront like the Eire," says Weir. "It takes five minutes for someone to be out there to push a broom."

As the beautification progresses and perhaps makes the village more and more of a destination, Weir hopes it will keep its distinctively-Dorchester character. "Everyone wants to get their foot in the door right now," he said. "It's a hot neighborhood. I don't want this to turn into the next South Boston, either."

Mary Salas, who has owned and operated Hair Image salon in the building just purchased by the Lydon team, is similarly conflicted. "I would like to see the village change structurally, to be modernized and beautified," she said. But she's also worried that a rent increase—as much as \$400 a month - might not be tenable for her and other longtime merchants.

" \bar{I} hope to stay in the village, but under those conditions, I have no idea," she said. "I've fixed everything in this place on my own over the last 20 years." Still, she sounds a hopeful note.

"The Lydons seem like decent people. I would love to be here for another 20 years. I just want it to be like it used to be. People don't come here like they used to because these buildings look run-down. If[the Lydons] are going to change that, they'll have to invest."

John Lydon says he is committed to doing just that. He plans to meet on site with city officials this week to talk about ways that city programs can help with facade improve-

"It should be updated big time and we're spending a lot of time thinking what could make it look better. Just small things like fixing the lights under the awnings- the things that make an inviting atmosphere in front of a business.

Our main approach is that it would be a mistake to come in and dictate what we want to do," said Lydon. "I want to listen to what everyone else thinks is a good idea. To come in and declare that they need to leave or to disrupt the usual course of business here would be irresponsible."

RIP: Quincy's Beachcomber

End of an era as popular venue exits the local music scene

By Peter F. Stevens

BIR STAFF Since 1959, the Beachcomber on Quincy Shore Drive has been a watering hole for patrons and the stage for some of the best traditional Irish and Irish American bands and solo artists. The news that the club has been sold and will close its doors for good at the end of September marks the end of an era for live music in and around

With the recent closing of T.T. the Bear's, in Cambridge, and the announcement that Johnny D's, in Somerville, will depart the music scene in early 2016 after a 46-year run, up-and-coming Irish singers and musicians will no longer have three venerable stages to use as career_launching pads./

The Beachcomber's saga began in 1959, when Jimmy McGettrick opened the club with co-owner Fred Crowley. McGettrick's opening stake was money that he had earned by selling Christmas trees, and the price to buy the Beach-comber was \$25,000. Mc-Gettrick, who bought out Crowley in 1965, was 25 when they opened the club – fittingly – on March 17, 1959. After the purchase costs, the two partners had only \$285 left to stock

When he passed away in 2011 after battling brain cancer, McGettrick's sons, Sean and Patrick, stepped in to run the club. In July, they announced that they had sold the Beach comber to a developer who plans to tear down the building and replace it with an upscale restaurant. For countless patrons over the decades, however, there is no replacing the club and the memories of the bands and singers who raised the proverbial roof along Wollaston Beach.
Throughout the years,

McGettrick booked an eclectic, musical hall of fame that included Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Rosemary Clooney,



Duke Tony Bennett, NormCrosby, Johnny Mathis, Steve Lawrence, Loretta Lynn, Count Basie, Bobby Darin, and Eydie Gorme for one generation. A singer with a captivating style stunned audiences there with her range and ability to sing everything from pop to rock. Her name? Linda Ronstadt. Although the club was renamed "Nostalgia" from the early '80s to the late 90s, it was always the Beachcomber to patrons in the same way that the "Garden" is the only name for the Bruins' and Celtics'

McGettrick's knack for

adapting to the musical tastes of several generations brought rock, r & b, punk, and any number of genres for younger crowds. An up-and-coming comic named Jay Leno per-formed many times at

No matter how many other styles of music hit the stage at the Beach-comber, McGettrick never lost sight of his true love for Irish music, both traditional and new. The traditional Irish music scene thrived at the Beach comber from beginning to its imminent end. From the Wolfe Tones and the Olde Brigade to The Prodigals, Black 47, and Dropkick Murphys, the Beach comber was constantly filled with both the tears and the cheers that the various incarnations of Irish music conjure or tear from audiences. Always, Jim McGettrick made a place for Irish music, from the club's near-legendary St. Patrick's Day celebrations to its Irish music Sundays.

Not surprisingly, several of his favorite and perennially booked performers were talented Ìocal Irish Americans. In a 2009 interview with wellknown Patriot Ledger music critic Jay Miller, McGettrick said that his 'all-time favorites were locals, men and women who didn't just stop at the Beachcomber; they came back again and again. People like Paul O'Donnell, a comic from Merrymount in Quincy, and Sid Walsh, 'a singer with an Al Jolson-kind of voice...known as Mr. Beachcomber.

McGettrick told Miller that Walsh would "come on in the middle of those eight-act shows and start with 'Southie is my Hometown,' and finish with 'God Bless America,' and knock it out of the park."

The nickname "Mr. Beachcomber" could well be applied to Jimmy Mc Gettrick, too. His reputation for treating per-formers with respect and fairness was well known. Carla Ryder, who played the Beachcomber with the band Mudhens, reflected to James Reed, of the Boston Globe: "I think people have a deep respect for that place [the Beachcomber], and they have a reputation of treating their artists supremely well. It's a venerable old Boston institution that feels very down-home. It feels horrible to me that all these Boston clubs that are closing are the classic old ones.

For many locals, the loss of the Beachcomber's Irish Sundays and St. Patrick's Day revels will soon be plaintive memories.

Opening its US market push, Primark eyes success at Boston site

(Continued from page 1) Primark has announced the hiring of some 550 employees ranging from partworkers to hires for the store's visual merchandising department and department and upper-level management. Solidifying the Irish chain's commitment to Boston, the offices

away at 101 Arch Street. Primark's distribution center is in Pennsylvania, where the chain plans to open its second American

of the company's US head-

quarters are a short walk

Primark executives and retail analysts have been quick to point out that the Downtown Crossing store is not a second incarnation of Filene's Basement, which was famed for selling famous name-brands such as Calvin Klein at steep discounts. Primark's niche is its own labels and clothing, shoes, and accessories purchased direct from manufacturers.

If a company's past is prologue, Primark is certainly poised to cause a large ripple in American retailing. In Europe, The US tended to be quite the chain is part of the clothing and apparel landscape. Primark's saga began in June 1969, when Arthur Ryan and Micaela Mitchell opened a Penneys store on Mary Street in Dublin. Within a few years, four more Penneys sprouted up in the Greater Dublin area. The operation garnered attention in the industry because of its affordable merchandise and approach, and as the company expanded throughout Ireland and then into the UK, the stores were named Primark, except in Ireland. On the eve of its entry into the US market, Primark's corporate profile notes that today "it operates over 270 stores in nine countries in Europe.'

Retail analyst and fashion expert Maureen Hinton told Reuters that Primark's prospects in Boston and beyond are conservative in fashion. I think that has changed because of the global access in fashion and entertainment."

"The main point about Primark is its price positioning. ... It has all the $trappings\,of\,the\,big\,stores$ and the feel of a more expensive fashion brand. I am sure that the likes of [US rival] Forever 21 are a bit worried.'

The timing for Primark in Boston appears propitious with the redevelopment of Downtown Crossing under way and with residential and commercial space being gobbled up at such sites as the upscale Millenium Place. For locals who grew up accustomed to Macy's (the erstwhile Jordan Marsh), Filene's, and Filene's Basement, the sight of the recently blighted area

on its way back to being a commercial cornerstone of Boston conjures a sense of nostalgia.

Downtown Crossing is - nostalgically speaking again – a fitting locale for the Irish-spawned Primark/Penneys to open. After all, an Irish immigrant opened the first store in Boston's annals 385 years ago, in 1630, and he did so on a plot of land on the north-east corner of the future State and Washington Streets within shouting distance of the future Downtown Crossing Primark.

No one would have likely called John Cogan "fashion forward," but the purveyor of dry goods, hardware, and other essentials in Boston's first store shared a "retailforward" approach with Irish-born Primark. On Sept. 10, another Irishtinged retail milestone will unfold at Downtown Crossing.

EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Time to dispense with unhealthy eating habits

By Dr. Bernadette Rock SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Food is an emotive topic and our eating often reflects what's happening within and around us. I grew up in Roscommon in a family of seven kids. My parents routinely warned us to "clean your plate, the children in Africa are starving" or "eat it all up before it goes cold." When we

had the Stations or Mass in our house, my parents would provide an enormous spread of fabulous food but "just for the visitors"! My mother conveyed a link between food and love that later led to a struggle with weight gain in my 20s. My relationship with food was as fol-lows: angry + bored = ice cream, hurt = chocolate.

Food has the power to make us feel loved or, indeed, unloved. The idea of "comfort food" can make us nostalgic and transport us back to a special time in our childhoods. Enjoying comfort food on an



Bernadette Rock and her daughter Keela.

infrequent basis is absolutely fine but if you find yourself seeking comfort from food on an everyday basis, you will need to ask yourself why. Here are some tips:

What's Your Eating About? - Often we eat because we want to escape or numb out. We eat because we don't like or want our reality. What are you avoiding when you eat? Maybe it's time that instead of looking externally at diets and food plans, that you look within and ask yourself, "Why am I reaching for food? What's bothering me that I want to eat?" A diet cannot help you address eating triggers, such as eating because you're stressed, overwhelmed or to "treat" yourself.

Get Comfortable with Discomfort – I'm not a masochist but I've learned that managing my eating means staying with myself when I feel stressed instead of reaching for a packet of biscuits. "What exactly is upsetting me? Will eating a few slices of cake really change anything?"

Bear in mind that progress rarely takes a straight line, and zig zag progress is normal. A lot of people tell me they feel under pressure to lose weight because they have a wedding or a holiday on the horizon. Often this pressure only drives further eating. Visualisz where/how you would like to be three months, six months, or a year from now. This could include being more comfortable in yourself, liking yourself more, letting go of specific eating habits.

Be Mindful, Be Present – When you slow down when you eat, you are more in control, instead of feeling out of control: Sit down while eating, instead of eating while hovering over the sink or fridge. Just because you distract yourself while eating does not mean that you're not really eating; pause before you eat and deliberately ask yourself, "Is this hunger or habit?"; separate your eating from watching TV. Watching TV can breed boredom and bored eating. Food improves the experience of TV, but it also means we eat far more than we realize.

Have a Heyday: I'm delighted to partner with the Irish International Immigration Center in Boston, and I'll be giving a class at the IIIC in $Boston\,in\,the\,near\,future\,addressing\,our\,mindset$ around food and weight. So email me for further details at hello@heydayworld.com.

Heyday's supportive online programme has recently been re-developed at heydayworld. com. Prof. Donal O'Shea, founder of the Weight Management Clinic in Loughlinstown hospital, Dublin, reports, "I am happy to recommend Dr. Bernadette's Programme. It is extremely valuable in supporting people who struggle with weight challenges. I have been happy to refer patients to Dr. Rock."

> Wishing you good health. Bernadette Rock, PhD

prevention workshops.

For more information about the walk, visit the

News and Events page of

our website: iiicenter.org.

taboo surrounding sui-

cide, we need to talk openly about it. Some

suicide might encourage

the person to do it. Fact:

Due to the stigma sur-

rounding suicide, people

who are contemplating

suicide are often hesitant

to reach out for help. Talk-

ing openly about suicide

can give people options or time to rethink their

• Myth: Most suicides

happen suddenly without

warning. Fact: The vast

majority of suicides are

preceded by warning signs, whether behavioral

or verbal. It is important

to become educated about

these and to learn what to

do if you notice someone

is suicidal is determined

to die. Fact: Suicidal

people are often ambiva-

lent about living or dying.

Access to emotional sup-

port at the right time can

prevent suicide. (World Health Organization,

2014)
If you are feeling depressed, alone, and

hopeless, or experienc-ing thoughts of suicide,

please give Gina a call at 617-542-7654, Ext

14, or send an e-mail to

gkelleher@iiicenter.org

for confidential support.

• Myth: Someone who

has these signs.

• Myth: Talking about

myths on the subject:

To end the stigma and

Irish International Immigrant Center



IIIC Updates

Legal Clinics – Tues., Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept. 15 at the IIIC of-fices, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street. Mon., Sept. 14, at The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center. Wed., Sept. 30, at St. Mark's Parish School Hall, 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester.

Together for Hope Walk for suicide prevention is set for October 17

We are excited to announce that the IIIC's Together for Hope Walk for suicide prevention and awareness will take place on Oct. 17 at Pope John Paul II park in Dorchester, MA. Last year's walk was a great success, helping us to continue to provide vital counseling and support to people struggling with depression, loneliness, isolation, and access to care. Help us continue our work of helping people to recognize signs of suicidal contemplation; to question, persuade and refer people to get help if experiencing these thoughts by fundraising, volunteering and/or walking with us on October 17th you can contribute to our vision of a world without suicide.

Register for our walk or sponsor a friend and help raise awareness about suicide and how it can be prevented. All An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655 Website:iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Why I became a US citizen By GINA KELLEHER, IIIC WELLNESS DIRECTOR

 $First\,in\,a\,series\,of\,articles$ by immigrant staff at the IIIC sharing their stories about becoming US citizens.

We Irish truly love our country and take pride in our Irish identity. So much so that I have to admit I was a permanent resident

for about 10 years before applying for my US citizenship in 1998. What held me back? The closest way I can explain it is that I felt I would be losing my Irish identity, that I wouldn't be truly "Irish" anymore. It was important for me to retain that feeling. I also felt that getting my citizenship wouldn't add many more benefits than I already had as a permanent resident.

Then, a family member who is an American citizen kept urging me to go for it. He reminded me that things change constantly in life: divorce happens, war happens, immigration laws can change, which in turn could affect my status. Being an American citizen would add more protection for me in an unstable world. I could leave the country and be out for an extended period without having to apply for re-entry permits. I could vote, and I have to say, that felt surprisingly good the first time I voted in a presidential election. I was no longer on the outside looking in, supporting a particular candidate, but being unable to do anything about it. Now I could be fully involved. After all, I paid taxes and wanted to have a voice in decisions that affected my family and me.

 $Having\,an\,American\,passport\,hgas\,made\,travel\,a\,lot$ easier. With dual citizenship, I could also still be an Irish citizen. Last but not least, I also love America! This country has been good to me and has given me many amazing opportunities.

The tragedy of 9/11 happened shortly after I became an American citizen and the world has indeed changed in many ways since then. If you are a permanent resident, and have lived here five years or more, I urge you to take those vital steps toward becoming

an American citizen; you won't regret it.

If you are interested, please give us a call at the IIIC where we offer citizenship classes and can assist you with this process.

Wellness Services, in-

proceeds support IIIC's cluding counseling, crisis management, and suicide



Donough

summer break in Boston and hope they depart for



pleasant memories!

Immigration Q&A

Renewing green card? Why not naturalize, too?

Q. I've been a US legal permanent resident for almost ten years, and my green card is expiring soon. What is the current procedure for renew-

A. Immigrants filing applications to renew permanent resident cards with a ten-year term of validity, commonly known as "green cards," need to file Form I-90 (which can be downloaded at uscis.gov) with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The form can be mailed or sent by courier to the addresses shown in the instructions. For most applicants, the submission also can be made on-line; go to uscis.gov and follow the instructions for electronic filing of Form I-90.

Applicants receive by mail a notice for a biometrics (fingerprint and digital photograph) processing appointment at a local USCIS Application Support Center.

Important: Applicants are being instructed to take to their biometrics appointments the records of any arrests, convictions, or any other involvement in criminal matters since last being granted legal permanent resident status. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have been attending these appointments and reviewing the documentation supplied by applicants. Some applicants have been detained because of the criminal records they submitted or because an ICE background investigation detected criminal convictions or outstanding arrest warrants. Accordingly, it is imperative that you obtain legal advice before your biometrics appointment if you have any issues involving past or pending criminal proceedings anywhere in the world.

The IIIC can help you with the Form I-90 renewal filing process, as well as the application for getting a new green card when the original has been lost or stolen, or when the card contains incorrect information.

Note: Holders of two-year conditional permanent resident cards based on marriage to a US citizen don't file Form I-90 to remove the condition; they use Form I-751 instead.

By the way, anyone who has been a legal permanent resident long enough to be eligible for US citizenship really ought to consider applying to become a US citizen as soon as possible. IIIC can help you with the all aspects of the naturalization application process.

For a free, confidential consultation on this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIIC immigration legal staff.

Foley Law Offices



Kellie and Katie

Meet Our J-1's -Katie, Kellie, Killian and Donough

The Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) is a multi-service agency that assists immigrants from Ireland and around the world as they integrate into American society. During the summer months, the center opens a Cyber Café for J-1 summer students to provide them with the necessary resources that will help make their search for jobs and housing run smoothly.

Among our many visitors this summer were Katie O'Sullivan (Cork) and Kellie Landers (Waterford), both graduates of the Cork Institute of Technology. Killian Finn (Wicklow) is a student at the Dublin Institute of Technology and Donough O' Flynn (Cork) will be transferring to the National University of Ireland in Galway.

With the help of the IIIC, these students were able to obtain jobs at the Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, MA, with housing nearby. They are all enjoying their summer in Boston and can't believe how quickly the summer has gone.

Killian was particularly grateful for the help he received: "Since the job and housing search can be a bit overwhelming for J-1 summer students at the beginning of the summer, I highly recommend using the resources provided by the IIIC's Cyber Café. The staff is incredibly helpful and the Café will be able to help guide you in the right direction."

We are pleased that these four students, and the many others we assisted have enjoyed their



Killian

home with a bag full of







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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL Fine Gael, Fianna Fail in 2016 – That is a headline that a respected member of Fianna Fail is pushing, and the sentiment for change can be heard from other Soldiers of Destiny front liners

The next election must be held before April 3 of next year, and Taoiseach and FG party leader Enda **Kenny** will lead and contest that election. The major question, looking ahead, is who would be a suitable junior partner with Fine Gael?



Bill O'Donnell

Up front, Fine Gael has said that they will not form a coalition government with Sinn Fein. Labour, aside from the bumps in the relationship, appears not to be anywhere close to winning enough seats to continue in coalition after the election. Early projections look for Labour to fall some 20-25 seats short of a 79-vote ruling majority when joined with Fine Gael.

September 2015

Into this pre-election conjecturing season comes Fianna Fail's fi-

nance spokesman and future party leader candidate, Michael McGrath, who is saying aloud for the first time that his party should be willing to swallow its pride and join with Fine Gael, even as junior partners in the coalition. It has been 90 years since the Irish civil war and reconciliation in the form of a national front, left-right coalition would be a powerful force for a new clarity of purpose and a refocusing of attention on domestic economic problems, growth, and long-term stability.

Political reality reflects a sharp drop in support for the coalition, and increased support for Independents, "pointing to difficulties in forming any government following the election which was not a Fianna Fail-

Fine Gael alliance," reports the *Irish Times*.

There are pitfalls in a FG-FF coalition, but history "has shown that two parties of roughly equal size have never gone into coalition before and might offer a different prospect." (Stephen Collins, Irish Times) And it might prove to the Irish electorate, if proof is needed, that Fianna Fail's recent past is not necessarily its future.

Ten Top Destinations in Ireland – TripAdvisor's recently published with few surprises a list of its top 10 spots to visit. We have been to all of them, some on many occasions, and few would argue the choices. The list begins with Killarney and follows with: Dublin, Dingle, Galway, Donegal Town, Westport, Cork, Sligo, Doolin, and Tralee.

Killarney, everyone's favorite. Can't forget the Lakes and honeymooning at the Hotel Europe; Dublin, so many memories, including the premiere of "My Left Foot" and the Gresham party with Christy's family; Dingle, our first trip around the peninsula in dense fog and a visit to the then Boston-owned Benner Hotel $and \, to \, Doyle's; \, Galway, the \, capital \, of \, the \, West, dinner \,$ on the top floor of the Great Southern overlooking the Bay at sunset; Donegal Town, walking inside Donegal Castle, the old homestead showing its age; Westport, Knock, and a luxe afternoon tea at Ashford Castle; Cork, where I first met Christy Brown in the Oyster Bar, and shopping at Quill's for Aran sweaters; Sligo, when I attended a Boston Ireland Ventures board meeting and chatted with our Galway & Derry board allies; Doolin, Gus O'Connor's Pub amidst the trad music and the carefree backpackers, walking at the stone edge of the Atlantic and then on to the Arans for a ceili and a dark walk home to our guest house; Tralee, the gateway over the Slieve Mish Mountains to the home of my maternal grandfather in Castlemaine, Tadgh Flaherty.

While age and slow going keep us from getting back to freiand too often, the memories, just scratched above, warm us during the New England winters.

We're thankful, in our own way, for both.

Let's Look At The Record – The economist and columnist Paul Krugman, despite his Pulitzer and his Nobel Prize in Economics, isn't the favorite of the conservatives who read. Too much truth? In an IrishTimes column last month he laid to rest some of the 'pants-on-fire" falsehoods about the six plus years of clarity, cleanup, and progress highlighting Barack Obama's tenure.

First, Krugman discussed the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, and found it working, and quite well. Despite some 50 repeal attempts by an inept GOP leadership, the ACA is attracting more health coverage clients and has sharply reduced the number of uninsured while costing substantially less than expected. Obamacare was also predicted to be a jobs-killer, but since the ACA went fully into effect, the US economy has added an average of 237,000 private sector jobs per month. Remember Texas Sen. Ted Cruz calling Obama Care "an abomination."

And despite the horrendous hand he was dealt, Obama's administration has had unemployment rates lower than President Reagan had during his time in office. And while Republicans are screaming about the need for new gas and oil pipelines, domestic oil production has soared and oil imports have plunged since Obama took office.

But, as Krugman reminds us, there were very few

mentions of the Obama record in office when the busload of GOP presidential hopefuls were on stage 'debating." Wonder why!

Boston Olympics Likely Heading to Los Angeles - No gloating, no "high fives" as Boston Olympics 2024 folded its tent and headed back to State Street, Federal Street, and their real estate empires. I am happy to see it go. As Boston City Councillor Michele Wu said in what could be the "Boston No" mantra, "Boston doesn't need the Olympics to prove we are a world-class city." No, indeed, we do not.

The flaws in the plan and the muddled pipeline between its supporters and the people of Boston when it came to the sticky numbers and commitments and liability - was not something that Boston Mayor Marty Walsh could abide. These high-living mandarins called the International Olympic Committee and their Beantown Brothers, who were sincere if not tough enough with the visiting cheerleaders, tried. But hand signals and eye blinks, especially on multibillion dollar mega-projects, went out with Lomasney.

The marriage, or rather, the troubled courtship between the Hub and the IOC was a tough fit from the outset. Let's move on to bigger and better thingsschools, public transit and in-town housing that folks without trust funds can live in. Now that's a legacy.

Knock Airport Welcomes First US Charter -Some three decades after the inaugural flights from Mayo's Knock Airport, the dream of Monsignor **James** Horan, the airport welcomed its first ever chartered pilgrimage flight from North America last month. The flight, from JFK Airport in New York to the shrine, was headed up by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and Brian O'Dwyer, International Chairman of Ireland West Airport, or Knock as it is usually identified. Welcoming the pilgrims from America was Taoiseach Enda Kenny.

Each year the Knock Shrine receives some 1.6 million visitors. It is envisioned that with the introduction of charter pilgrimage flights, their number will increase and grow to at least three million in coming years. The shrine and the airport were conceived and came into being following years of fundraising, politicking, and outreach by Monsignor Horan. The Mayo-born cleric died at age 75 shortly after the airport was completed in May 1986.

Movies With A Local Twist-At least three major films of local interest are finished, in production, or, as the Hollywood types like to say, in development. Two of them will be released before the end of the year.

The first is the heavily anticipated "Black Mass," the story behind the story of how Southie gangster James "Whitey" Bulger and the Irish mob co-opted each other as the FBI zeroed in during its investigation of the city's Italian mobsters. Produced by Warner Brothers and starring **Johnny Depp** as Whitey, it is set to open in Boston and worldwide on Sept. 18.

The second is "Spotlight," the story of how the Boston Globe investigated and published in early 2002 a series by its Spotlight Team on clergy abuse in the Catholic Church. Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law resigned in December of that year and the following spring the paper was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its work. The Globe story's cast includes Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo, and Rachel McAdams, and is scheduled for release in the Boston area in early November and worldwide on November 20.

The last of the three films with a strong Boston hook is actually two movies about the Boston Marathon bombings with one (called "Patriots Day") that stars Mark Wahlberg, and a second, "Boston Strong," that is reportedly in the development stages and starring Ben's Affleck's brother Casey.

Update: The Berkeley Balcony Tragedy - Clodagh Cogley, seriously injured in the California balcony collapse, returned to Ireland in early August and is in rehabilitation working to recover from her injuries, Clodagh joined Sean Fahey, Conor Flynn, and Jack Halpin, who had all recovered sufficiently injured in the Berkeley balcony collapse, Aoif Beary, Niall Murray, and Hannah Waters, are receiving care and treatment in a US rehabilitation center.

A number of funds are being set up and administered in Ireland. The Irish Consulate in Boston (617-267-9330) may be able to provide Irish addresses for fundraising to benefit the injured students.

What's Going On in the Health-Starved North -There is something wildly incomprehensible going on within the Northern Ireland health service. This government-run enterprise, less a few unaffiliated hospitals, has had a near historic breakdown that has nothing to do with the paucity of gurneys used to transport non-ambulatory patients from one hospital station to another. And it has little or nothing to do with the quality of medical care. Doctors and nurses in Ireland, north and south, are generally spot-on.

What confounds this observer of the past several years is that medical appointments with trained and competent health services in the North-that's PCPs, specialists and senior status physicians – are being cancelled more and more. This means that patients and hospitals and the doctors who staff them are telling each other they cannot keep scheduled appointments.

Last year patients failed to turn up for almost 150,000 certified appointments. On the hospital side, in a failed process the health service describe as "disappointing," more than 168,000 appointments were cancelled by hospitals across all five health trusts. In

round numbers that translates into more than 300,000 cancelled medical appointments in a province that has, at last count, 1.85 million residents.

The total annual costs of this "Alice in Wonderland" misadventure (while welfare costs are being targeted for substantial cuts) to the British government is over \$25 million. Add to this rescheduling, lost time for medical specialists, longer waiting times, etc. and you have a flat out crisis.

Is anybody in Whitehall or Stormont listening? Heaney's Hopeful Epitaph on Headstone -Nobel Laureate **Seamus Heaney**, who died on Aug. 30, 2013, left something to lift our spirits and tell us a bit about his view of life. On a headstone recently inscribed near his Bellaghy, Co. Derry, birthplace his epitaph reads: "So walk on air against your better judgement."

Professor Fran Brearton, director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen University Belfast, talked about the line of poetry taken from the final stanza of "The Gravel Walks" that now adorns the Heaney gravesite: "It is about being able to see beyond your moment. He says it is a reminder to himself about what poetry can do."

I think he was, at least partly, talking about putting a bounce in our step.

Maybe, as people do in front of Yeats's epitaph in the parish churchyard in Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo, citizens and tourists will pause in that plot of land in Co. Derry to stop, to ponder the hopeful, expectant words Heaney wrote for himself, and for us. Maybe.

Former Provo Official Arrested as 'Dissident' From Gerry Adams to Martin McGuinness and other Sinn Fein opponents of the breakaway "dissidents," there is no warm house for those who do not follow the lead in condemning the rump Republicans who fight on for Irish unity, Brits out, and against the peace process. They are the enemy and are not welcome in Sinn Fein, but an arrest last month of Kevin Hannaway, says the journalist Ed Moloney, is a clear signal that the "significance of the allegation is twofold."

Hannaway's father and Gerry Adams's mother were brother and sister, which makes Kevin and Gerry first cousins. Moloney says the fact that Hannaway, a close relative of Adams, the chief architect of the Sinn Fein/IRA peace process, has been accused of being in sympathy with the enemies of the peace process is likely to be a source of considerable embarrassment and political discomfort for the Sinn Fein president. The other important feature of Kevin Hannaway's

arrest "is that he is one of the most respected survivors of the Provo IRA's founding fathers," says Moloney. This is a tested veteran of the war with Britain and it should send a red-hot alert to Sinn Fein/IRA that some of their most trusted operatives are unhappy and possibly moving into the dissident orbit. Not good news for anyone.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Former Irish Ombudsman Baroness Nuala O'Loan went on BBC's Radio 4 to tell listeners that peace in the North is "fragile" as she delivered a broadside against current British government agencies for overlooking endemic post-traumatic stress disorder in NI. ... On Sept. 28, 1960, at Fenway Park, Ted Wil**liams** delighted me and 10,453 other spectators by hitting his 521st home run in his last MLB at-bat. ... Rory McIlroy is king of the Green but he is touting another northerner, Belfast's Tom McKibbin, who just won the under 12 world championship in the US. Irish clothing retailer Primark is opening its first US store in Boston this month. ... A new political party in Ireland, Renua, is promising major tax cuts for self-employed. ... Fifty years ago a newspaper strike in Dublin closed 46 printing houses and the papers for ten weeks. ... The AOH says that CNN, still looking for an identity, is in a time warp looking at Irish history. ... The new Google maps somehow omitted the giant Goliath crane from its recent mapping. ... Prange Order is unhappy that easy. passengers about the July 12 "travel disruptions."

A lovely lady, Mary Keane, John Bs wife who took John's place at their pub in Listowell on many occasions, has passed on at 86. ... Ryanair, in a new milestone, carried 10 million passengers in July. ... Months after a Galway waitress at An Pota Café recognized a customer who had left his disability money by mistake, she was able to return his cash. Happy Days. ... The Irish holiday home industry remained strong even through the recent terrible weather. And, sadly, the number of Irish home repossessions has reached 60 a week. ... Sean Fitzpatrick, who lent himself 100 million euros from his bank, Anglo Irish, is trying to get his ongoing trial adjourned. Fat chance.

Tea sales in Britain are dropping and retailers are blaming coffee and green tea. ... Old pal Dr. Frank Costello, and Dr. Gerard MacAtasnev are collaborating on a book on the global impact of the Irish Famine. ... Good to see that **Ace Atkins**, the successor to Robert Parker in the ongoing series of Spenser novels, has been seamless in continuing to use Parker's references and mentioning some musicians from early novels. Atkins spent Page 200 in his Cheap Shot" Spenser novel weaving the late pianist **Dave McKenna** and the Copley's Oak Bar into his story line. As with Parker, the reference worked well in highlighting local color. ... Support your local food pantries and meals for the homeless.

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

With more than 45 teams registered in the Boston area, the ICCNE is home to the North East Division of the GAA. Saturdays and Sundays during the summer are busy here with up to ten games being played in one day, and late August and early September are extra busy times as each league hosts semi-final and championship matches. The BIR's Harry Brett was on scene on Sun., Aug. 23, to capture these photos of happy spectators.

1.) Olivia Leonard, Braintree; Cara Leonard, Braintree; Denise Feeley, Walpole; Noreen Fitzgerald, Dedham; Maureen Lyons, Dorchester; 2.) James Conley, Hyde Park; Michael Buckley, Quincy; 3.) James Kelly and Stacey Ryle, Newton; 4.) Rob McDowell and Kathleen Harrington, W. Roxbury; 5.) Seamus Healy, Pres. Sligo Assoc.; Breeda Ryan, Waltham; 6.) Brendan Feeney, Braintree; Greg Feeney, Canton; 7.) Angela Farrell and Chris Simpson, Down Ireland; 8.) Mickey, Audrey and 9 wk. old Grace Feeney, Weymouth; 9.) Paul, Louise and 2 1/2 yr. old Cian Roper of Quincy; 10.) Deirdre Doherty, Orla Gallagher, Elaine Williamson all of Dorchester; 11.) Gary Kelly, Quincy; James Mackey, Dorchester; Shane Hayes, Jamaica Plain.











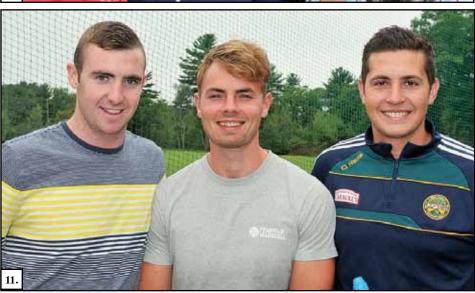














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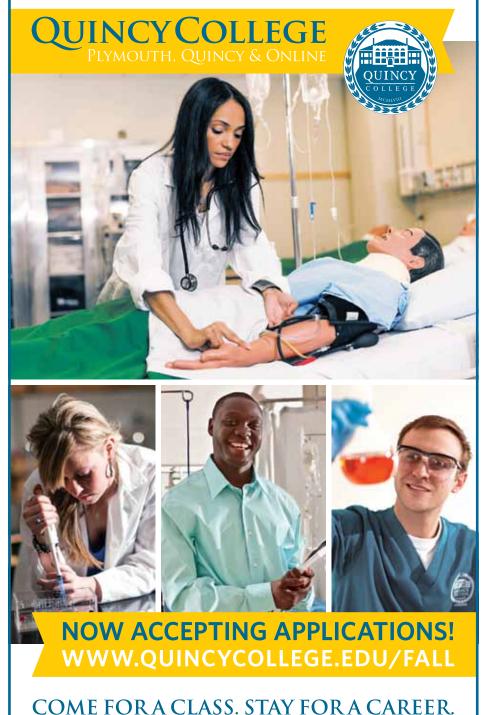
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Taking a read of the musical 'The Book Of Mormon'

At Citi **Emerson Colonial Theatre** through Oct. 11

By R. J. Donovan SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Theater has been a part of Jake Emmerling's life for as long as he can remember. The influence began with his grandparents who were such diehard fans that when they'd visit New York, they'd see six shows in four days. That love of the arts soon rubbed off on Jake, his brother and his cousins.

His stage debut came in the first grade. "I was the doctor for a lion that was sick or something that like. I couldn't learn my lines," he said, adding with a wry edge, "So that was great."

The young actor is currently in Boston performing in the national tour of the outrageous musical comedy "The Book of Mormon," playing the Citi Emerson Colonial Theatre through Oct. 11. He has been with the show for the past three years, has performed in 32 cities, and recently played his 1000th performance as a member of the ensemble.

Winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "The Book of Mormon" follows the comical misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries who travel halfway around the world to spread the good word in Uganda.

The satirical blockbuster was written by "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt

Stone, with Bobby Lopez, the Oscar-winning composer of Disney's "Frozen" and Broadway's "Avenue Q.'

Raised in Derry, PA, Emmerling trained at the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera School for Music Theater during high school. He later attended Shenandoah Conservatory, graduating magna cum laude with a BFA in Music Theater and a Minor in Dance. He also received the school's Excellence in Theater

We spoke while "Mormon" was playing at the Kennedy Center in Washington. D.C. Here's



Jake Emmerling (third from left) with the cast of the national touring company of "The Book of Mormon," playing the Citi Emerson Colonial Theatre through October 11. Photo © Joan Marcus, 2014

a condensed look at our conversation.

September 2015

Q. With theater such an influence in your life, when did it shift from an avocation to a possible career?

A. Sophomore year in high school. I did "West Side Story." That's when everyone started saying, "Oh, you can actually do this" . . . I had never thought of it that way. One of my teachers in high school - Jim Julian, my chorus teacher – told my parents during one of the Parent-Teacher Nights to take me down (to Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera School) if I wanted to actually pursue it. We looked into it and I got tested by taking a ballet class with a lot of sixyear-old girls. I was like 15, 16 . . . My Mom and Dad were so supportive. They said if you really want to do this, let's do it. So I just jumped in.

Q. "The Book of Mormon" is a fairly auspicious way to make your national tour debut.

It's very surreal. The entire rehearsal process, as stressful as it was, was crazy. (I'm thinking), "Okay, I'm in New York City with all these Tony Award-winning directors and creatives and I'm doing their show, one of the biggest shows in the country right now"...It got me my Equity Card. And it's been a ton of fun touring the country.

Q. Were you already a "South Park" fan?

A. I was. I was. Growing up, it was one of those shows that we weren't allowed to watch (laughing). But of course we'd sneak it in everyone once in a while, go to a friend's house or something.

Q. Did Trey Parker and Matt Stone have approval on your casting?

A. For one of my two final callbacks in Chicago, the entire creative team, everyone, was there, except for Matt, Trey and Bobby. There were like nine people behind the table when we auditioned . It was videotaped. Which was also kind A. I'm very grateful. of scary. But from my understanding, they sent them the video tapes and they literally had to approve us.

Q. Were they involved in your rehearsals?

A. They were very active, actually . . . We rehearsed in November and they had to take time off from "South Park" to come out (to New York) and rehearse us. It was right in the middle of their season. It was crazy, but they did it, they made it work . . They really wanted to make sure their show was exactly what they wanted it to be . . . Very hands on. Very, very, very invested, which was really cool to watch.

Q. What are they like

personally?
A. You'd think Matt and Trey – the creators of "South Park" – should be very funny and know comedy. And it's so true . . They really understand comedy. Not just funny guys making jokes back and forth . . . (They) wouldn't just look at (the work) and say "No, I don't like what you're doing, its not funny." They'd look at it and say, "I see what you're trying to go for, but let's try it from this per-spective"... They really encouraged everyone's creativity.

Q. And what about Casey Nicholaw, your choreographer and codirector with Trey. He's worked on everything from "Spamalot" to "Aladdin.'

A. He has such a keen eye . . . He was adamant about keeping the show clean. Not, of course, literally clean, but the show itself, the message. They were adamant that the Mormon boys were actually Mormons. From day one (Casey and Trey said) "We're not out to make fun of Mormons. That's not what we're doing. These are not caricatures. This is not 'South Park' -- this is not cutouts." We are actual people...So that's what I try to bring to it every night.

 \mathbf{Q} . I'm impressed with how familiar you are with your family ancestry. I know you trace your roots

back to the McKennas, O'Connors, Garrigans, Skelleys and Haneys in Limerick, Kerry, Emmsken, Londonderry, and Clare. What sparked your curiosity?

A. It started it about ten or 15 years ago. One of my Mom's cousins went to Ireland to visit distant relatives and when she came back, she told us all about it and showed pictures. That's when everyone in my family was like, let's do this, make a family tree. So we've been keeping up with it. .. It's crazy to think about it, the heritage, where we come from . . . I haven't been to Ireland yet, but it's on my list.

R. J. Donovan is the editor and publisher of onstage boston.com.

"The Book of Mormon," through Oct. 11, Citi Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston. Tickets: 800-982-2787 or visit BroadwayInBoston.

Fall schedule set for Gaelic Roots at Boston College

The Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series at Boston College will feature performances this fall by Cape Cod-based fiddler and violin-maker Rose Clancy, and the duo of accomplished accordionist and tune collector Paddy O'Brien and fiddler Nathan Gourley.

Sponsored by the Center for Irish Programs in collaboration with University Libraries and the BC Alumni Association, Gaelic Roots brings to campus outstanding musicians, singers, dancers and scholars, who give

presentations of Gaelic music as well as the dance traditions of Ireland, Scotland and the United States. Gaelic Roots events, which are free and open to the public, take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Theology and Ministry Library on Brighton Campus, unless noted otherwise.

The series' fall slate opens on Sept. 24 with a concert by Clancy, a native of Bronx, NY, from a strong Irish background. She will be joined by her father Gene (guitar) - who once toured the US as a member of a popular band, the Irish Ramblers - and her brother John (string bass) on September 24. Clancy took up Irish fiddle as a young child and over the years played occasional concerts with Gene, John and other family members. Eight years ago, Clancy enrolled in the violin-making program at Boston's North Bennet Street School and settled in Chatham, Mass., where she runs an instrument shop and hosts Irish/Celtic music events.

The series will shift to Gasson 100 on Oct. 15 for an Irish dance and ceili, organized by fiddler Seamus Connolly, the Sullivan Artist-in-Residence in Irish Programs at BC, and Kieran Jordan, a renowned Irish dance performer-choreographer-teacher and BC Irish Studies faculty member. This participatory event features Irish social dances, all of which will be taught by Jordan, and are open to experienced and novice dancers alike.

On Nov. 12, Gaelic Roots will welcome Paddy O'Brien, who in addition to being a highly regarded master of the Irish button accordion is known for his diligence in collecting Irish traditional tunes - his repertoire stands at more than 3,000 - many of which he has shared through a series of recordings. Joining O'Brien will be Nathan Gourley (fiddle, guitar), a former Minnesota resident who has been living in Boston for almost three years; he and O'Brien have played together as part of the trio Chulrua. The concert will take place in the Theology and Ministry Library.

For information and updates on Gaelic Roots, see bc.edu/ gaelicroots.

Music aplenty in September; Fiddlers take the spotlight

Appearances by Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Cape Cod fiddler Rose Clancy and guitarist Pierre Bensusan plus a reunion of the Bostonarea fiddle trio Halali are among the highlights of September Irish/Celtic events taking place in the Creater Boston area

the Greater Boston area. The fiddle-cello duo of Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, who will perform at the Amazing Things Arts Center in Framingham on Sept. 20, recently released their latest CD, "Abundance" [see this month's CD reviews]. For more than a decade, the two have cultivated a compelling partnership of sounds that draw not only on Scottish and other Celtic traditions, but elements of Scandinavian, Breton, American, classical, jazz and other music forms.

Also at Amazing Things this month will be a CD release concert on Sept. 13 by the band Low Lilv. Formerly known as Annalivia, the trio of Liz Simmons (vocals, guitar), Flynn Cohen (vocals, guitar, mandolin) and Lissa Schnecken**burger** (vocals, fiddle) focuses on the interconnectedness of American folk music with its Irish, Scottish, English, New England and old-time/ Appalachian offshoots, and interpolate their own modern ideas and approaches.

For times, ticket information and other details regarding these shows, see amazingthings.org.

Rose Clancy will kick off the fall schedule of Boston College's Gaelic Roots series of traditional music on Sept. 24. Raised in a musical family—she'll be joined at the concert by her father Gene (guitar, vocals) and brother John (string bass) – Clancy plays the fiddle traditions of Ireland, Scotland and Cape Breton. She took her career in a new direction several years become a violin-maker. [See feature story on Clancy elsewhere in this edition.]

Admission to the concert is free; it will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the School of Theology and Ministry Library on the BC Brighton Campus. See the story in this month's issue about the fall Gaelic Roots series, or go to bc.edu/gaelicroots.

Pierre Bensusan will perform at Club Passim in Harvard Square on Sept. 25. With a career spanning some four decades, Bensusan is widely regarded as an innovator whose multiply influenced acoustic guitar style anticipated, and helped usher in, such popular genres as world and New Age music. But Bensusan in particular had an impact in the

Celtic and traditional music realm, his playing often compared to luminaries such as Martin Carthy, John Renbourn and Dayey Graham

and Davey Graham.

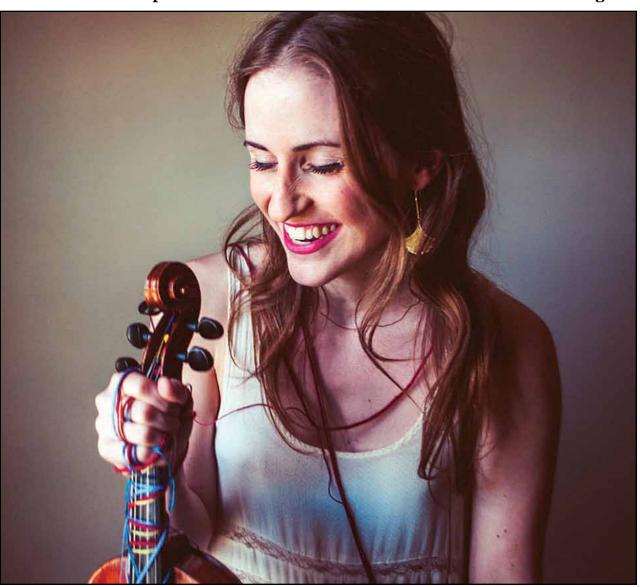
Halali, which plays two shows at Club Passim on Sept. 17, is anchored by the majestic fiddling of Laura Cortese, Hanneke Cassel and Lissa Schneckenburger, and the estimable Flynn Cohen accompanying on guitar. Individually and collectively, all four have been major figures and influences in the 21st-century Boston/New England Celtic music scene; what with thriving solo careers and various collaborations afoot (Schneckenburger and Cohen are part of the aforementioned Low Lily), they rarely have the opportunity to perform as Halali.

Club Passim will feature a number of other performers of Celtic and related music this month, including at the club's Campfire Festival over Labor Day Weekend: Among those appearing are Joey Abarta & Nathan Gourley, Elizabeth & Ben Anderson, Cat & the Moon, Lindsay Straw, Sean Smith, and Molly Pinto Madigan. Madigan also will be the opening act on Sept. 9 for a CD release concert by **Hannah Sanders**, an English folk/traditional singer who lived and performed in the Boston area and elsewhere for a few years.

Jenna Moynihan, whose fiddling combines Scottish and Appalachian influences, will close out this month's Passim slate with her own CD release concert on Sept. 30.

For more details on these shows, see passim. org.

The Burren "Back-room" series in Somerville will host the duo of David Munnelly and Phil Masure on Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Munnelly is namic accordionist in the Mayo tradition who has played with distinguished musicians such as The Chieftains, De Danann, Gerry O'Connor and Sharon Shannon, in addition to touring with his own band. A native of Belgium, Masure has been one of Europe's most in-demand folk/traditional music guitarists, with dozens of recordings on his resume. Opening for Munnelly and Masure will be **The Fretless**, a band that explores the rhythmic, harmonic, and structured arrangement of folk music from their native Canada and elsewhere in the essence of a chamber string quartet; among its members is Ivonne Hernandez, a Berklee College of Music alumna who performed at various Boston venues and events.

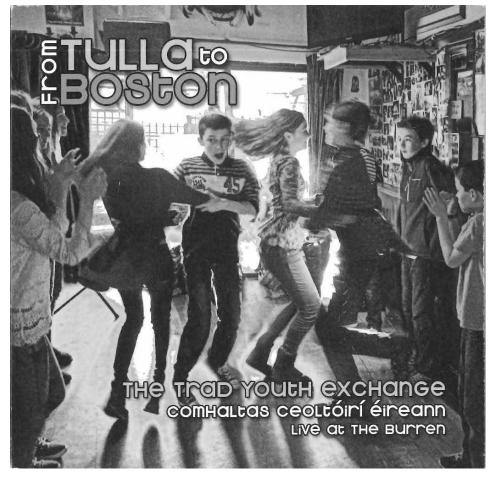


Boston-area fiddler Jenna Moynihan (at Club Passim on September 30) and Mayo accordionist David Munnelly -- appearing with guitarist Phil Masure at The Burren on September 23 -- are among the performers taking to the concert stage locally this month.



See burren.com/Back-room-Series.html for more information.

Also on Sept. 23, Celtic piper Dick Hensold will play traditional music from Scotland, Ireland and Northumberland at the Somerville Armory café. Hensold is regarded as one of the foremost players of the Northumbrian bagpipes in North Americas, and has performed and taught in England, Scotland, Japan and Canada as well as across the United States; earlier this year, he went on a multi-city tour with Cape Breton musicians Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray. The concert, which begins at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30), is presented by notloB Music. Admission is by free-will offering, with a suggested donation of \$15-20, \$10 for students and seniors. Reservations through eventbrite.com are suggested. For more details, see facebook.com/notloBParlourConcerts or e-mail notlobreservations@gmail.com.



"From Tulla to Boston" offers highlights of last fall's Trad Youth Exchange concert at The Burren.

By SEAN SMITH

Dana Lyn & Kyle Sanna, "The Great Arc" • It's not exactly a revelation to say that traditional folk music, from Ireland and elsewhere, is strongly rooted in the natural world—all those songs and tunes describing or evoking (sometimes metaphorically or symbolically) verdant vistas, flora and fauna, the passage of seasons, and so on. So the concept of using mainly traditional Irish instrumental music as a basis for an album that centers on animals is by no means a stretch.



But "The Great Arc" has a deeper, rather more complicated essence: The species to which it pays tribute are all either endangered or extinct. Lyn (fiddle, viola, piano) and Sanna (acoustic and electric guitar) — whose resumes include forays into several genres and styles of music, from Irish to classical to

experimental – have fashioned a series of tone-poems dedicated to, among others, the stegosaurus, blue-tailed skink, trilobite and great auk. With a couple of exceptions, they draw upon the Irish tradition, interpreting

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

tunes like "The Piper's Chair," "The Western Lasses," "The Old Bush," "The Galtee Rangers" and "The Ormond Sound" and beckoning to the imagination of the mind, and heart. The key word here is "interpret," as in many instances Lyn and Sanna depart straightforward rendition to explore harmonic and rhythmic components within the tunes, deconstructing and reconstructing them—such as on the "Poll Ha'Penny/Sean Se Ceo" and "Galtee Rangers/Jack Coughlan's/Ormond Sound" sets. [The outliers are "Skylarking," a Lyn composition, and an alluring take on Bach's "Allemande," which features an appearance by Solas accordionist Mick McAuley.]

The obvious test for an album like this is, if you don't know the context for it, can you appreciate it? Where "The Great Arc" is concerned, the answer is generally yes. Lyn and Sanna are excellent musicians who work very well together, and their ideas and improvisations are often interesting, even fascinating: One of the strongest and most successful tracks on the album is "The Rainy Day" – honoring the Great Barrier Reef – which builds from a delicate, tentative fiddle/acoustic guitar pairing (with a field recording of peepers in the background) to an ever-stronger, elaborate, assertive arrangement that includes viola and piano.

arrangement that includes viola and piano.

Perhaps the key to "The Great Arc" is realizing how
Lyn and Sanna challenge our expectations and assumptions about Irish music: Most of us are probably
used to hearing reels, jigs and the like done according
to convention, an A part followed by a B part (and,
where necessary, other parts), instead of as tangents
or riffs that can be elements in and of themselves.
By extension, you might say Lyn and Sanna also are
inviting us to consider our perceptions of the natural

world, and how attuned we are to its rhythms and phrases – and what it means when a voice in its grand chorus is no longer heard.

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, "Abundance" • This is the fourth album for this pioneering partnership that has distilled seemingly every trait of Scottish music through the sometimes otherworldly compatibility and symbiosis between Fraser's fiddle and Haas's cello. Their utilization of harmony, improvisation, rhythmic intrigues, and ample doses of intuition and empathy – what they refer to as "ducking and diving" – evoke aural settings that range from parlor to pub, ceilidh to concert hall, and perhaps a windswept moor or two.



It hardly diminishes the result to mention that they do have some very talented assistance here and there, in the person of pianist-accordionist Donald Shaw and percussionist James MacIntosh (of the well-regarded bands Capercaillie and Shooglenifty, respectively), double-bassist Co-

rey DiMario, mandolinist Dominick Leslie as well as cameos by Boston-area fiddler Hanneke Cassel — playing piano here — percussionist Stefan Amidon and Haas' fiddle-playing sister Brittany. They even have a two-person brass section in Kai Welch (trumpet) and Oscar Utterstrom (trombone, bass trombone, euphonium) on the opening and closing tracks.

The centerpiece of the album is the "Connie Suite," a five-part commissioned work that draws inspiration from various music and dance traditions, not only Celtic but French and African, with an exquisite excursion into jazz at one point. Yet for all the fireworks and excitement from the guest musicians, at the core is, as always, the interaction of Fraser and Haas – right after the "Connie Suite," for example, is just the two of them playing "Braigh Lochiall," the melody to an old Gaelic love song, and it's starkly beautiful and emotive. Simple, yet sumptuous.

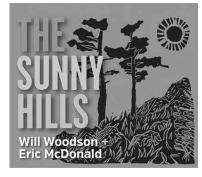
Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas will perform at

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas will perform at the Amazing Things Arts Center in Framingham on September 20 (see amazingthings.org). Will Woodson & Eric McDonald, "The Sunny

Will Woodson & Eric McDonald, "The Sunny Hills" • McDonald, a Boston-area native who has showcased his guitar, mandolin and vocal talents with Katie McNally, Matching Orange, and Cantrip, among others, has for the past couple of years collaborated with Woodson, a Maine-based performer on the Scottish border pipes and flute (their local appearances include BCMFest and the notloB Concert Series).

As this CD demonstrates, the duo has cultivated a tight, cohesive sound in which melody and rhythm are

thrown into sharp relief by the instruments' qualities — the primal-force beauty of the pipes (a set specially codesigned by Woodson that has some similarities to the uilleann pipes) and the bassy tone and pulse of McDonald's guitar — as well as the pretty



basic arrangements that highlight them. It's not the sort of thing one hears much in Celtic music nowadays; typically, pipes seem to be found more in an ensemble setting, often sharing the lead with a fiddle, and with guitar and perhaps a bouzouki in the mix as well.

If that seems a roundabout way of suggesting that being favorably disposed to bagpipes helps in appreciating this album, well, true enough – but even the uninitiated can certainly admire Woodson's control and dexterity, such as on the pair of reels ("Willie Murray's/Gladstone's") that opens the album, or the intricate slip jig "Chloe's Passion" that leads into the jigs "Hills of Glen Orchy" and "Portree Bay"; another track begins with Woodson and McDonald both playing melody on a march, "The Highland Lassie Going to the Fair" and then ramps up into two energetically delivered reels, "Lochiel's Away to France" and "The Little Uist Reel." For a change of pace, McDonald plays mandolin on

For a change of pace, McDonald plays mandolin on a track that begins with the march "Garden of Skye," switching over from rhythm to double the melody on the strathspey "Lime Hill" and the reel "Captain Byng" – although slightly out of tune in spots, it's an enlivening number. Woodson, meanwhile, shifts to flute on two instrumental sets, "Cameron's Got His Wife/Donald Blue/A Dhomhnuill" (strathspey and reels) and a medley of two quickstep marches with a slip jig; the flute takes on a more percussive, almost harsh sound here, not unlike that of a fife.

McDonald also contributes three songs, two of them – the winsome Cape Breton love song "When First I Came to Caledonia" and the Jacobite lament "Chairlie, Oh Chairlie" – from the repertoire of the late, peerless Tony Cuffe (who lived locally in Arlington for the last 12 years of his life), as well as a somewhat shortened, and more tragic, take on Robert Burns' "The Bleacher Lassie," for which McDonald's vocals are especially tender and emotive.

There's an overall splendid dose of rawness here, tied to the sometimes fierce but nonetheless compelling nature of the pipes, and giving Woodson and McDonald's music a rugged authenticity.



'Fiddle Piano Bass' CD another leap of faith for multi-talented Rose Clancy

BY SEAN SMITH SPECIAL TO THE BIR

As someone who used to be in the moving-and-relocation profession, Massachusetts fiddler Rose Clancy knows a little something about the process of uprooting and starting a whole new life – even if it means taking a chance that things won't work out.

Clancy herself made just that kind of leap of faith eight years ago, when she left behind her native New York, and the family business where she'd worked for more than 20 years, to enroll in a violin-making program in Boston. And she did so again three years after that, setting up her own shop in Chatham on Cape Cod to put to use what she had learned.

This past year has seen Clancy add another new experience to her portfolio, recording and releasing her first solo CD, titled "Fiddle Piano Bass." The 12-track album features Clancy playing tunes from the Irish, Cape Breton and Scottish traditions, accompanied on most tracks by her longtime friend Brendan Dolan on piano, flute and whistle, and Jon Evans on double bass; Boston-area musician Bob Jennings also plays cello on two tracks.

Although she's always had a strong connection to Irish music through her family, and has been playing it herself since childhood, she feels the relationship has both broadened and deepened as a result of the new direction she took in her life. The CD is a reflection of this bond, she says, and the demands and rewards that go along with it.

"Recording the CD was fun, and at the same time fairly excruciating," quips Clancy, who will appear at Boston College on Sept. 24 as part of the university's Gaelic Roots series [see separate story]. "We are often our own worst critics. It's difficult, this pursuit of perfection, because it's not the way any of us play. You listen to what you've done, and your ears pick up a note here and there that perhaps sounds flat – and you just have to say to yourself, 'Well, that's just what it is.'

"So, ultimately, you just have to make the decision to put yourself out there, even though it's maybe a

little nerve-wracking."

Anxiety, or any other such unpleasant reaction, is scarcely likely to befall those who listen to "Fiddle Piano Bass." Clancy shows herself to be entirely at ease with different fiddle styles, whether it's pulsating Cape Breton reels, such as the opening medley, which includes a composition by the late Brockton, Mass., native Jerry Holland; the tender "Neil Gow's Lament for the Death of His Second Wife," one of the legendary Scottish fiddler's most well-known pieces; and, of course, plenty of tunes from the Irish tradition listen to the lift she gets

on a trio of jigs ("Boys of the Lough/Knights of St. Patrick/Dancing Eyes") or the push she gives to a set of reels ("Tuttle's/Kiss Me Kate/Ormond Sound").

In addition to the jigs, reels and slower pieces, Clancy adroitly handles barn dances (Charlie Lennon's sprightly sweet "Dance of the Honeybees" along with "Chaff Pool Post"), hornpipes ("The Pleasures of Hope/ Dwyer's"), slip jigs ("The Little Fair Cannavans/ Ryan's/Moll Roe") and - a further delight - a pair of mazurkas ("Doherty's/ The Glenties"). Dolan, for his part, does an excellent job of modifying his piano backing to suit the genre in which Clancy is playing -a rollicking Cape Breton accompaniment, for instance, or a somewhat lighter, bouncy touch on Irish jigs (he also shows some imaginative chording, particularly on "The Admiral's Whiskers"). And he's a fine melody player, too, switching to flute on the slip jigs and whistle for the Greg Johnson waltz "Betty Moffett."

As the album demonstrates, Clancy doesn't see herself as taking after a particular regional style of Irish fiddle – nor, for that matter, an exclusively Irish style at all. "I like a lot of different types of music within a certain genre, although I did play mainly Irish for a long time. I had a friend who played Cape Breton fiddle, and as a kid I'd thought it was a kind of 'simplified Irish' style. But when I went to Cape Breton, I really got the full effect; the beautiful subtleties, the drive. I like the power in it, but also appreciate the gentle flowing tunes in the tradition.

"I have another friend, Sara Marchio, who began playing Scottish pipes, and she started feeding me Scottish tunes – the ornamentations and the rhythms are challenging but fun to play. I'm not an expert in those traditions, nor do I try to make them sound Irish. We just played how we wanted to play, and not worry so much about stylizing the tunes, so there was a certain freedom to the whole process."

Although Clancy was born and bred in the Bronx, her roots are manifestly Irish, with both parents native to Armagh. And Irish music figured prominently in her family history: Her father, Gene, originally came to the US in 1962 along with his two brothers to tour as the Irish Ramblers (yes, says Clancy, they've frequently been confused with that "other" musical Clancy family). But Gene ultimately decided he didn't want to pursue music as a full-time career, and settled into family life and starting up the moving and relocation business.

Still, Clancy recalls, "there was always music in the house, and it got in my soul." She began playing violin in third grade through her school, but she also found plenty of inspiration and assistance from family friends in the local Irish community to learn traditional music. Clancy says she was fortunate to have a violin teacher in Paul Ehrlich who was very tolerant of different types of music he encouraged me to work on the Irish." Other key mentors and influences included legendary Irish pianist Felix Dolan (Brendan's father), who gave Clancy books and recordings related to Irish music and had her sit in with him at ceilis and dances, as well as fiddler Brian Conway and accordionist

Mike Melanophy. Clancy competed in fleadhs when she was younger – she had the misfortune, she laughs, of being the same age as fellow New Yorker and future fiddle star Eileen Ivers-and one year qualified for the All-Irelands in the slow airs category. Joining the family business didn't squelch her musical activities by any stretch; there were occasional concerts with her father and other family members, and plenty of sessions and parties. [She'll be appearing with her father and brother at BC.]

"My job was pretty demanding, and it took a lot of my time," says Clancy, who was involved in organizing the relocation and storage of library and

After living most of her life in New York, Rose Clancy has made a home for herself -- and her music -- on Cape Cod.

art materials (her clients included the New York Public Library). "But I always found time to play with family and friends. I never let go of the music."

In fact, over time Clancy says she became "obsessed" with her instrument of choice - not so much in the music it produced, but the overall sound. She had the sense of what it took to be a good fiddle player, but what, she wondered, went into making a good fiddle? Then she found the place where she could answer her question: the North Bennet Street School in Boston, which offers a three-year course in violin-making. She hemmed and hawed about applying, but eventually she did ("Life's too short," she says) and was accepted.

After graduating from the program, Clancy found herself at a crossroads. "The violin-making was a great experience, and I learned so much," she says. "But I realized that I still love playing music most of all. I wanted to find a way to bring that all together."

While in Chatham, where her parents own a house, Clancy found "a little wreck of a building" and decided that she would renovate it to be her base of operations — but not just for violin-making. "I could see there was a pretty active traditional music scene on the Cape," she says, "and I wanted to help strengthen what was going on."

Thus was born the Chatham Fiddle Company [chathamfiddlecompany. com], a hub for Clancy's instrument rental, repair and crafting business as well as a venue for her classes in fiddle, classical violin, mandolin and banjo, and for a regular slate of concerts featuring the likes of Robbie O'Connell, Aoife Clancy, Frankie Gavin, Tommy McCarthy & Louise Costello, and Andrea Beaton. (Gene Clancy's woodwork art also is available there.)

Reflecting on this transition, Clancy says, "I thought that learning to make violins brought me deeper into the music, though perhaps not quite the way I thought. When I see a fiddle now, I always want to know what it sounds like, and I'm not as interested in the construction or the appearance—the ugliest instrument can have a beautiful sound. Once I play it, and can

hear how it sounds, I can put it down and look at the aesthetics."

Clancy had a little bit of recording experience with her family, and had talked with Brendan Dolan about doing an album of her own "some day." Finally, she says, "Brendan called me up and said 'Let's do it!" To round out the sound, she recruited Evans, another Cape resident, who has played with pop stars like Tori Amos and Sarah MacLachlan.

"I love the depth that the bass brings," she says. "My brother is a lovely bass player, so we always had that in our music, and my dad's ceili band had a bass player — it's practically in my DNA. I guess."

my DNA, I guess."

She also decided to include Jennings, a familiar figure at Boston-area Scottish music events and gatherings. "I met Bob at a Boston Scottish Fiddle Club weekend on the Cape. I didn't know a lot of Scottish tunes, so most of the time I just sat there listening. But then there was a break, and Bob just sat there playing Irish tunes with me for an hour. I thought he'd be perfect for the waltz and the lament."

Clancy says she's pleased by the reception to "Fiddle Piano Bass," and is gratified that her efforts to achieve what she calls "an authentic sound" have been well received.

"I tried two different microphones when we were recording, to try and get it 'just right,'" she says. "But what helped, actually, was listening to some Jerry Holland albums. The sound is raw, and it's fantastic—Jerry's just there fiddling, having a great time. What you hear is the spirit of the music, and that's what is important. If you can put that across in a recording, you're doing very well."

In fact, now that she's got one solo recording under her belt, Clancy says, "I want to do it again."

But for now, she's content to build on the promise of the Chatham Fiddle Company, and appreciate all that leap of faith she took years ago has brought to her music, and to her life. "Building and then playing an instrument is a wonderful thing. Being able to play, and get a tone, just encourages you to improve. I can hear, and feel, and see what I did right and what I didn't. I'm very happy with how it's worked out."



CD of Trad Youth Exchange: It lays out a milestone event

By SEAN SMITH SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Perhaps the worst thing you can say about this CD is that it makes you wish for more – like a companion DVD.

"From Tulla to Boston: Live at The Burren" is a recording of last November's Trad Youth Exchange concert that took place in The Burren in Somerville, and as such is a valuable keepsake of a milestone moment in Boston's Irish music history. The concert was held as part of a cross-Atlantic partnership between two groups of young musicians – one from Tulla in Country Clare, the other mainly from the Boston area - created through Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann to build fellowship and share a mutual love of Irish traditional music.

Last fall, the Tulla youngsters (the Túlog Ceili Band) spent several days in the Boston area; earlier this year, the Boston contingent (Realta Geala) completed the loop with a visit to Clare.

The 17 tracks on this CD are an audio highlight reel of one very memorable afternoon, when practically every square inch of the Burren Backroom was filled with enthusiastic audience members and youthful musicians - in fact, the latter (numbering just under 30) took up almost all the space on the stage. Three of the album tracks are devoted to the combined Túlog-Realta Geala ensemble.

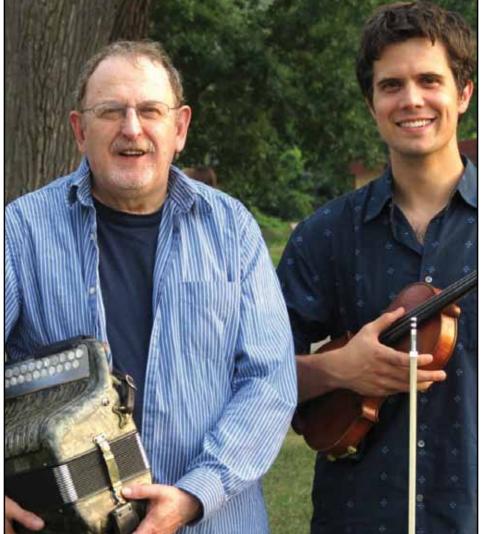
As impressive, and solid, as those big-band sets are, it's the various smallerscale collaborations and solos that really offer an insight into the talent and skill residing in this next generation of Irish musicians (not to mention the organizational acumen of Sean Clohessy, Kathleen Conneely, Mary MacNamara, Lisa Coyne, and the other impossibly committed and devoted adults who put this shin-

dig together).
There are the twin fiddles of Bostonians Josie Coyne and Audrey Bulger with Maeve O'Brien on bodhran, on a pair of jigs ("Cook in the Kitchen/Brendan Tonra's"); a dandy set of reels, "The Bunch of Green Rushes" and a less familiar version of "The Maid Behind the Bar," by Túlog's Lily O'Connor (concertina) andRosa Carroll (fiddle); the fiddle-playing Kozachek sisters of Realta Geala, Lizzy and Mary, taking on the venerable "Banshee/ Trip to Durrow"; a jig-reel pairing on twin flutes by Túlog brothers Stephen and Ronan Kennedy; and easily one of the show's highlights, a near-flawless rendition of the air "An Raibh Tú Ag An gCarraig" by Túlog fiddler Clodagh O'Farrell.

Another track is a tourde-force for the concertina (which is, after all, a staple of traditional music in Clare), a medley of reels with solos by Aisling McMahon, Conal Egan, and O'Connor, who join together at the end. In a similar vein is a "Fiddle Run," a lengthy procession of reels with Túlog fiddlers Carroll, Cliona Donnellan, Leagh Hunt, Eve O'Connor, Aine Murphy and Naoise O'Sullivan. (Credit must be given, incidentally, to Clohessy for his piano backing on many of the tracks.)

Part of what made the Trad Youth Exchange concert special were appearances by accomplished musicians like Jimmy Noonan, Tommy McCarthy, Jon Gannon, Tina Lech, and John and Lisa Coyne along with Mac-Namara, Conneely and Clohessy. Emcee Brian O'Donovan remarked at one point that the event constituted "a passing of the torch," where a new generation of musicians served notice that it is ready, willing, and able to continue the tradition. So the veterans' presence provided a valuable perspective to the show, which the CD captures on three tracks, as well as another in which a jig set by the Coyne family symbolizes this union of generations.

If one really wanted to draw generational comparisons here, the older musicians sound perhaps just a bit looser and more relaxed about the whole



Paddy O'Brien, left, and local fiddler Nathan Gourley will perform at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series on November 12.

for a video "extra" to this

affair, and among the younger musicians performances there might be the occasional misstep or duff note. But the level of skill, focus, and crispness displayed by the kids – most of whom are barely, or not even, into their teens – is deserving of respect, not to mention

heartening in and of itself.

So, yes, one could wish

CD, to be able to see that vouthful talent in action, and the tremendous response it provoked from the Burren crowd. But then, there's plenty of footage on YouTube. Or better yet, keep an eye out for these young people, whether at fleadh, festival, concert hall or session - they're definitely going

to be around, and Irish traditional music is all the better for it.

For information on pur-chasing the "From Tulla to Boston" CD, send an e-mail to Johnmichaelcoyne@gmail.com. The Trad Youth Exchange Facebook page is facebook.com/TradYouthExchange.





Traveling People

Transformation at Ashford Castle earns an A-plus grade

By JUDY ENRIGHT SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There simply isn't any other word to adequately describe Ashford Castle's new look.

The well-known castle hotel, home to the Guinness family for more than 100 years, was purchased in 2013 by Red Carnation Hotels and has since been totally and exquisitely refurbished.

We toured the recently reopened hotel in Cong, Co. Mayo, this spring, courtesy of effervescent Sales and Marketing Director Paula Carroll, and saw for ourselves what a spectacular property two years of work has created. In fact, Ashford is so spectacular that Virtuoso, a luxury travel network, recently named it the world's leading hotel, a title earned by Ashford topping some 1,100 other extraordinary contenders from all over the world.

The "new" Ashford is the brainchild of Beatrice Tollman, president and founder of Red Carnation Hotels, a South African company, along with her daughter, Toni, the Red Carnation project team, and architect Philippe Bonino. Renovations were done to respect the castle's storied and historic past while incorporating the latest technologies expected by today's traveler.

The 50-million-euro renovation required a complete overhaul of the infrastructure due to the age and scale of the castle. Included were more than 800 new windows, new wiring, a new lead roof, and repointed stonework. Grounds were done over and additions included a five-room spa, billiard room, children's games



There have been many famous guests at Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, over the years, including American president Ronald Reagan.



Vases overflowing with fresh red roses, Irish crystal chandeliers, authetic antique furnishings are par for the course every day at the newly-refurbushed Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo.

. Mayo. *Judy Enright photos*



Red Carnation Hotels, a South African company that owns Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, has spent the last two years completing a 50-million euro renovation that included more than 800 new windows, new wiring, a new lead roof and repointed stonework. The hotel celebrated it new look when it was reopened this spring.

room, indoor and ozone-filtrated swimming pool, techno-gym, 32-seat cinema, and a cigar terrace. Kitchens were moved and rebuilt on a different level to be closer to dining areas for more efficient and timely service and 500,000 euros were spent to upgrade the nine-hole golf course.

There are 130 shimmering chandeliers in Ashford's hallways, corridors and rooms, includ-ing 11 Waterford Crystal chandeliers in the George V dining room. Each of Ashford's 70 guest rooms, 15 staterooms, and suites was furnished with antiques, original artwork and marble bathrooms in addition to I-luv speakers, electronic blinds, air conditioning, mood light dimming, and USB chargers in the wall. There is complimentary wi-fi throughout the hotel. Wherever possible, materials and pieces were sourced from local artisans and suppliers, like the Connemara marble bar top in the Prince of Wales cocktail bar.

Little guests are welcomed with apple juice and cookies as well as storybooks personalized with their names. The young ones can also partake of a Lego room service menu. Top quality babysitters are available, too, so parents can enjoy a night out.

Ancient underground wine stores have been transformed into private dining cellars and an old boathouse on Lough Corrib has become a private, secluded, and luxurious lakeside cottage suite.

Beatrice Tollman

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the renovation was that Mrs. Tollman, wife, mother and grandmother, was completely hands-on and involved in every last meticulous detail from construction to the addition of live orchids in bedrooms and eating areas, such as the drawing room. She orders vases of glorious red roses to be delivered fresh daily for gathering spots such as the Connaught Room, where you can take afternoon tea, and the Prince of Wales bar.

And, if that is not enough, the tireless Mrs. Tollman is also an accomplished cook who oversees restaurants in



Mrs. Tea's Boutique and Bakery is just one of many attractions on the 350-acre Ashford estate and is named for Mrs. Beatrice Tollman, president and founder of Red Carnation Hotels which owns the Irish castle hotel.

13 Red Carnation hotels on three continents as well as a restaurant in London and a country inn in Dorset. In her cookbook, "A Life in Food" (available at the Ashford gift shop), she writes, "I have learnt much along the way, but one particularly important golden rule that I feel I must impart is to always seek out the freshest seasonal ingredients, no matter where you are. I have long been an advocate of farmers' markets and I always buy organic, locally sourced products whenever possible." Good advice for us all; it shows that she was well ahead of her time as farmers' markets have only recently surged in popularity.

Red Carnation

Red Carnation purchased Ashford in 2013 for a reported 25 million euro and bought the 50-bedroom Lodge, a boutique 4-star sister hotel within the castle grounds, for 1.8 million euro in 2014.

Room rates have increased (high season from 495 euro per night for B&B in a Corrib room) at Ashford Castle to reflect the investment costs. The split-level Reagan Presidential Suite rents in high season for 2,500 euro a night. (President Ronald Reagan was just one of many dignitaries to visit Ashford over the years. Among the royalty, celebrities and heads of state welcomed to the

hotel over the years were George V (then Prince of Wales), Brad Pitt, John Wayne, Fred Astaire, Barbara Streisand, John Travolta, and many more.)

There's lots to do on the 350-acre Ashford property, including falconry, archery, zip lining, horseback riding, clay shooting, golf, tennis on new, all-weather surfaces, and cycling and water sports on Lough Corrib. Six ghillies are available at Ireland's only Orvisendorsed property for fishing, and gear can be rented or purchased at the fishing and golf center. All activities can also be enjoyed by guests at The

And don't forget shopping! Ashford has two boutique stores on the grounds that sell a variety of gifts, clothing

and food. At Mrs. Tea's Boutique and Bakery (next to Cullen's at the Cottage restaurant), visitors will find a split-level shop selling gourmet foods made at Ashford daily and an assortment of locally made products including Connemara Smokehouse salmon, Bewley's coffee, and more. In the boutique, there are locally made souvenirs, sporting goods, and clothing.

Niall Rochford, general

Niall Rochford, general manager at Ashford for the past 14 years, noted that staff levels have increased significantly to 300 to support the improved facilities. Some staffers at Ashford have worked there for up to 40 years, which is quite a tribute to management.

Historically, some 85 percent of the high season guests at Ashford come

from the US, with many traveling from California, Arizona and Texas. Most American guests, though, still visit Ashford from the East Coast, from New York, New Jersey and Boston primarily.

Ashford is well known for its link to the 1952 film, "The Quiet Man," with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, which is still shown in the theatre daily.

For more information about this great venue, visit ashfordcastle.com.

HAPPENINGS

- The Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in Co. Clare, one of Ireland's oldest traditional festivals, takes place in the small spa town from Aug. 28 through to Oct. 4. The festival is more than 150 years old and attracts up to 60,000 people from all over the world. Third generation matchmaker Willie Daly, who will be on hand to bring singles together, boasts many marriages to date. See matchmakerireland.com for more.
- And, while you're in Co. Clare, be sure to stop in on a Sunday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., May to October, at the Burren Art and Craft fair in Ballyvaughan. There you'll find a collection of items for sale by crafters, photographers, and artists based and working in the Burren region. The fair is in the Village Hall and is well worth a visit. We especially like Janis James's goat milk soaps that smell wonderful, are easy to pack, and make great gifts to bring home. Admission is free.
- Up in Co. Mayo, the Ballycroy National Park visitor center is open from 10-5:30 daily through September and admission is free. At the park, there is a nature trail with pond, interpretation panels and viewing points, and you will be introduced to the landscape of the spectacular Nephin Beg mountain range and Owenduff Bog, one of the last intact active blanket bog systems in Ireland and Western Europe. It's a great day out in the fresh air. For more information, visit ballycroynationalpark.ie.

TRAVEL

Enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go and keep an eye out for airline and ground travel deals often available at this time of year. Summer has wound down but there's still a lot to see and do in Ireland.



Life Insurance ... is it time?

September 2015

Have you been putting it off?

Presented by Brian W. O'Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU

A March 2011 survey from Genworth Financial and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business found that almost 70% of single parents and 45% of married parents were living without any coverage.1



Why don't more young adults buy life insurance? Shopping for life insurance may seem confusing, boring, or unnecessary. Yet when you have kids, get married,

buy a house or live a lifestyle funded by significant salaries, the need arises.

Finding the right policy may be simpler than you think. There are two basic types of life insurance: term and cash value. Cash value (or "permanent") life insurance policies offer death benefits and some of the characteristics of an investment - a percentage of the money you spend to fund the policy goes into a savings program. Cash value policies have correspondingly higher premiums than term policies, which give you death benefits only and have terms of 10 years or longer. Term may be a good choice for young adults because it is relatively inexpensive. But there is an economic downside to term life coverage: if you outlive the term of the policy, you and/or your loved ones get nothing back. Term life policies can be renewed (though many are not) and some can be converted to permanent coverage.2

The key question is: how long do you plan to keep the policy? If you don't want to pay premiums on an insurance policy for more than 10 years, then term life stands out as the most attractive option. If you are just looking for a short-term hedge against calamity, that's the whole reason behind term life insurance. If you're getting into estate planning, then permanent life insurance may prove a better choice.

Confer, compare and contrast. Talk with a financial or insurance professional you trust before plunking down money for a policy. That professional can perform a term-versus-permanent analysis for you and help you weigh per-policy variables.

Brian W. O'Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. Tel: 617.439.4389

BIR NOTEBOOK

Jillian O'Keefe says goodbye

The second-in-comannd at the Irish consulate has returned to Ireland. In a letter issued last month, deputy Consul Jillian O'Keefe wrote, "As most if not all of you will know by now, I will conclude my posting to the Consulate-General of Ireland, Boston, on Fri., Aug 21, to take up a new role at the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin....I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping to make the last two years such an enjoyable and interesting experience. After three years in the Russian Federation and two years here, it's time go home for a while but I will always treasure my memories of Boston. From Ministerial visits to immigration issues to St. Patrick's Day celebrations, from scorching summers to freezing winters, it's been an adventure and I was very fortunate that there were so many wise, wonderful, and helpful people here with which to share it."

> Eire Society to host concert by NE Irish Harp Orchestra

The Eire Society of Boston will host a concert by the New England Irish Harp Orchestra on Sun., Sept. 27, at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton.

The program will include traditional dance tunes, songs, and airs arranged for multiple harps. Tickets are \$10 per person for ICCNE/ESB members and \$12 for non-members.

Nurse's death prompts benefit for St. Agatha's

The family and friends of the late **Courtney A. Kelly,** a 25-year-old Milton nurse who died in March, are planning a benefit reception on Mon., Sept. 21, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Florian Hall Dorchester. All proceeds will benefit the St Agatha School (Milton) Scholarship Fund. Information: Pat Kelly, 508-663-7759.

Irish boy, 4, in Boston for tests on rare illness

A four-year-old Irish boy, **Cian McDonnell Lynch**, from County Meath, is suffering from Revesz Syndrome, a rare condition involving the failure of the bone marrow to produce normal blood cells. In late August, his parents traveled with him to Boston, where physicians at Children's Hospital began assessing him for a life-saving double lung transplant.

The family, which anticipates that life-saving surgery could cost \$1 million, or more, has returned to Ireland to await the results of the assessment.

Fundraising efforts continues, with details on Facebook at hopeforcian.

Irish Heritage Certificate program closed down

The Irish government has discontinued its Certificate of Irish Heritage program. The certificate was introduced in 2011 to recognize descendants of previous generations of Irish citizens in an official way and to give greater practical expression to the sense of Irish identity felt by many around the world.



Fund Steve Greeley, Dr. Bill & Dr. Angela Healy.

American Ireland Fund cause hailed at Cape's 'Irish Night'

Some 140 American Ireland Fund (AIF) supporters gathered in Brewster on the last day of July for the sixth Annual "Irish Night on Cape Cod" at Ocean Edge. The event was hosted by AIF Director Joe Corcoran and his family. The evening raised awareness and support for The Worldwide Ireland Funds "Promising Ireland" Campaign to support Irish charities and causes worldwide.

In his remarks, outgoing Irish Consul General Breandán Ó Caollaí, accompanied by his wife Carmel, thanked the AIF for its role in keeping the Boston Irish diaspora connected to Ireland and funding the work of nonprofit projects in Ireland and in the Greater Boston area. AIF New England Director Steve Greeley congratulated Corcoran and the committee for the success in establishing of the annual Cape reception

The event was chaired by Kevin and Rita Gill of Hingham, John and Tracee Hynes of Milton, and Ed and Jennifer Murphy of Dover. Committee members included: Steve & Kathryn Brackett, Jack & Trish Brennan, Jay Calnan, Chris & Nancy Coburn, Kip & Peggy Condron, Bill & Barb Connolly, Joe Corcoran, Jim & Kerrie Coughlin, John & Kathy Drew, Ryan & Maura Fitzpatrick, Tom & Gina Flannery, John & Maureen Hailer, Jay & Linda Hooley, John & Carla Morey, Tom & Shelly O'Neill, Matthew & Margaret Power, Scott & Nancy Powers, Jack & Alissa Sebastian, and Mike & Carolyn Stevens.

The American Ireland Fund is part of the Worldwide Ireland Funds, a philanthropic network across 12 countries that has raised over \$500 million for worthy causes in Ireland and Irish causes around the world.

It is the largest network of friends of Ireland dedicated to supporting programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development. Founded in 1976, the WIFs have benefited over 3,000 organizations. Funds raised are contributed by private sources - individuals, corporations and foundations.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In the August column we learned that both English and Irish have two types of conjunctions, **compound** where both sides of a sentence are equal and **subjunction** where one side – usually the first – is more important than the second part. English most often uses the word "that". After the Irish subconjunction **go** you must use the "after particle" form of the verbs

> "He said that Peter was there." Deir sé go raibh Peadar anseó. /JEER shey goh roh PEED-uhr uhn-show/

Now you can learn another subjunctive conjugations, the word for "when". This does not require an "after particle" forms. These only apply to the verb **bí** and the copula Is. The "after particle" forms of the verb Bí are in the present (bhfuil,) and past (raibh.. Don't forget that bhfuil is pronounced /weel/ or /veel/ with a "silent f" while raibh is /roh/.

The forms of \mathbf{Is} (often abbreviated 'S before a word beginning with vowel) is Is/S, Ní, An?, and Nach? in the present and Ba/B', Níor, Ar? and Nár? in the past. However, the form following go for both Is/S and Ba/B' is gur. All others are the same.

Deir sí go gur muid ceart. /JEER she goh goor MOO-eej KERT/ 'She said that we were correct."

An additional **subordinating conjunction** is "when" or "whenever", nuair. You many recognize this as includes the noun "hour", uair, as it is derived from "in the hour that ...'

Ba Herbert Hoover an hUachtarán nuair ruadh mé. /bah Herbert Hoover uhn HWACH-tah-RAHN noo-ahr ROOK-uh mey/ "Herbert Hoover was the President when I was born."

You may have noticed that ansin, "here", breaks the spelling rule, "Broad to broad and slender to slender". This means that ansin should have been spelled *aensin – but it's not. this is because ansin was originally two words, an "the" and sin "this (place)". Since these two words always appeared together with the meaning of "here" it only made sense for them to appear as one word. The same applies to anseo "there" and ansúid. Ansúid /uhn-SHOOJ/ which refers to a thing or event even more remote in space or time than simply, "there". It might be best translated "over yonder", "way over there" or "way back there". You will not find **ansúid** too useful but you need to know the three. Notice that **ansúid** does **not** break the spelling rule.

However, the spelling reform also had its drawbacks. What used to be the combination a nis, /uh neesh/, "now", had to become anois. inserting an o in order not to break the spelling rule. Scot's Gaelic solved the problem by simply inserting a hyphen, **a-nis**.

Another unusual set of words is the preposition idir, "between". Idir does not form prepositional pronouns as other pronoun and prepositions do. Instead it stands alone in the singular and the makes **prepositional pronouns** in the plural – but the plural forms are also not regular. The forms for "he" and "she", **sé** and **sí**, are also abbreviated to **e** and **i**. **Idir** is pronounced as if written *eadir.

In the English plural idir is best translated "among" when the number is more than two persons.

Idir mé, tú, e and I in the singular eadrainn eadraibh eadarthu.

- "between me, you, he, she"
- "between/among us"
- "between/among you-all"
- "between/among them"

Tá spas idir an teach agus an sráid.

"There is space between the house and the street."

Tá cairdeas eadrainn.

"There is friendship between us (we two)."

Beidh Nóra ansin idir an trí agus an ceathrar

"Nora will be here between three and four."

Roinn Peadar, Padruig agus Liam an mbia eadarthu.

Peter, Patrick and Bill shared the food among themselves

*Linguists mark a "made up" word or sentence with an asterisk in front .



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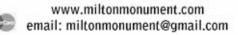


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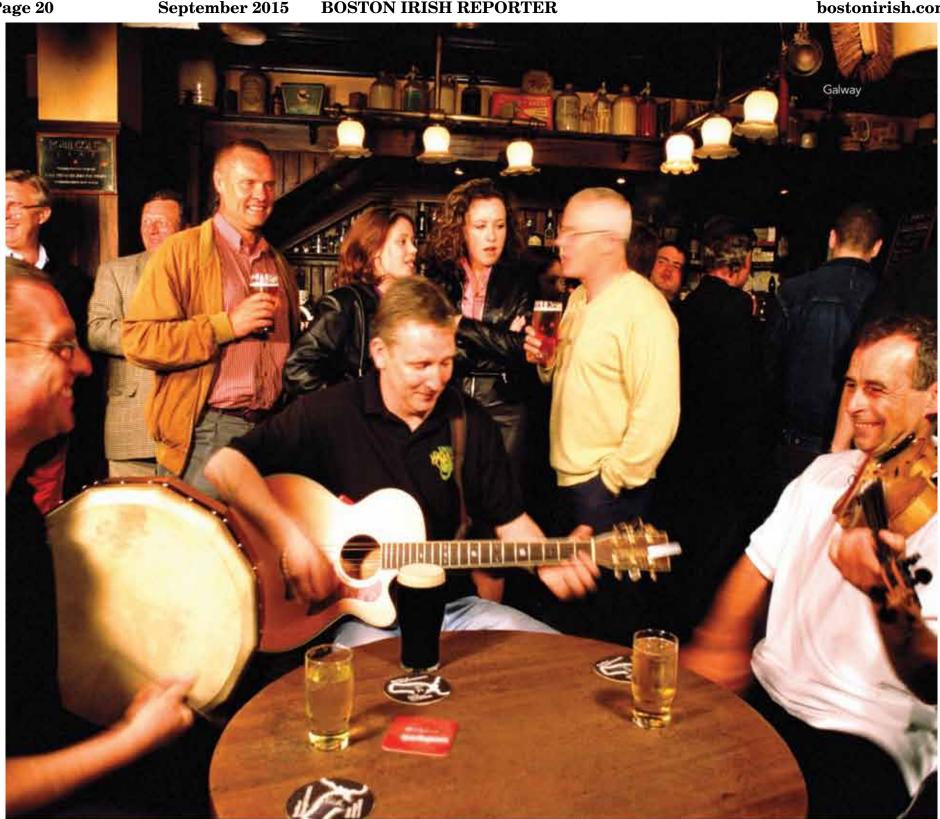
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